Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Meetings With Foreign Leaders

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Editor's Note: The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at http://www.gpo.gov/nara/nara003.html.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, March 8, 2002

The President's Radio Address

March 2, 2002

Good morning. This coming week I will be highlighting measures to help America's public schools carry out the education reforms we enacted in Washington earlier this year. Our education reforms require accountability and results and give schools greater resources to achieve them.

Parents will have more information about the performance of their local schools and more say in how their children are educated. The No Child Left Behind Act is historic, ushering in a new era of accountability and education, but a lot of hard work is still ahead.

The effectiveness of all education reform eventually comes down to a good teacher in a classroom. And America's teachers are eager to put higher standards into action, and we must give them the tools to succeed. My administration has set a great goal for our public schools, a quality teacher in every classroom.

We can achieve this in two ways, by attracting capable men and women into the teaching profession, and providing teachers the training and support they deserve. Over the next decade, America will need more than 2 million new teachers. The budget I have signed into law for 2002 includes nearly $3 billion for teacher training, recruiting, and hiring, an increase of more than 35 percent over the last year's budget.

We proposed to expand programs that recruit new math, science, and special education teachers by forgiving part of their college loans in exchange for a commitment to teach in poor neighborhoods for at least 5 years. We should open up the teaching profession, allowing people who have achieved in other fields, including veterans and parents with grown children, to share their learning and experience. And we must upgrade the teaching colleges, where many teachers receive their training, the topic of a conference that will be hosted by our First Lady on Tuesday.

Today, only 36 percent of teachers, themselves, say they feel very well prepared for their jobs, so we'll focus on teacher training efforts where the need is greatest, in early childhood education, special education, math, science, and reading instruction. Through my administration's Reading First program, we are placing a new emphasis on the most basic of skills, and many of our teachers will need training in the best and proven methods of reading instruction.

Because learning only takes place in an atmosphere of order, we want our teachers to be in control of their classrooms. So we're protecting teachers from the threat of frivolous lawsuits that often result from enforcing reasonable discipline. Because committed teachers often buy school supplies for their students out of their own pockets, the budget I have proposed includes a tax deduction to cover some of those costs. And because I strongly believe in local control of education, I'll implement new flexibility for school districts. They'll be able to use Federal funds where the local need is greatest, to reduce class sizes or improve teacher training or to increase teacher pay.

In our new era of education reform we're asking a lot of our teachers, and we owe them something in return. We must treat them as the professionals they are. We must give them our respect and support. Teachers are among the most important people in our children's lives, and a good teacher can literally make a lifelong difference. I have confidence in the education reforms we enacted because I have confidence in the teachers who will carry them out.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:00 a.m. on February 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 2. The transcript was made available by the Office

of the Press Secretary on March 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7525—American Red Cross Month, 2002

March 2, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The American Red Cross is one of our Nation's oldest and most renowned charitable organizations. It provides help, hope, and healing when disasters or other crises strike countries, communities, or families around the world.

Founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, the American Red Cross was chartered by the Congress in 1905 to provide aid in times of need. Each year, the Red Cross responds to more than 67,000 disasters nationwide. These include natural disasters, thousands of home fires, and catastrophic emergencies—such as the brutal terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The Red Cross was among the first to respond to this unprecedented national crisis, providing direct assistance to more than 50,000 families, shelter for thousands of displaced persons, millions of meals for the hungry, and grief counseling for more than 200,000 individuals affected by the trauma. The Red Cross also provides assistance during international emergencies. Responding to my request, it helped create and now administers America's Fund for Afghan Children. American children were asked to donate one dollar to aid Afghani children, and this effort has already provided $2.4 million in medicine and other supplies to Afghanistan. Last year, the Red Cross rushed immediate medical aid and other needed items to countries devastated by natural disasters, and it helped millions of people around the world to battle malnutrition and life-threatening diseases and gain access to safe drinking water.

Other Red Cross services include recruiting millions of people annually to donate blood and thereby provide hospitals with half of the Nation's supply of blood and blood products. Red Cross personnel are now with our troops who are fighting terrorism in Afghanistan. They live alongside our soldiers in harsh conditions and work around the clock to fulfill an historic role. They help to keep service members and their families in touch with each other, and offer other small comforts to ease the strain of those who are serving the cause of freedom.

At home, the Red Cross' courses in life-saving skills, first aid, CPR, and water safety, provide Americans with information they need to help maintain safe and healthy lives. Our communities also benefit from Red Cross programs that provide hot meals and transportation for the homebound, as well as housing and job training for the homeless.

Over one million Red Cross volunteers help make our country stronger and more compassionate by relieving suffering and saving lives every year. The USA Freedom Corps initiative will provide the Red Cross with even more volunteers to help further its important mission. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I call on all our citizens to recommit to serving others in need. Collective acts of kindness and compassion point the way to a brighter future for our Nation and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as American Red Cross Month. Especially during this extraordinary time for our country, I encourage all Americans to support this organization's noble humanitarian mission.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 4, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Proclamation 7526—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2002

March 2, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America has been shaped by the principles of liberty and freedom, guided by the pursuit of justice, and enriched by the diversity of its people. Irish Americans have been an essential part of this development, greatly contributing to our Nation's progress and prosperity.

Our country's citizens come from diverse backgrounds and cultures, which has enabled us to realize the vision embodied in our first national motto: "E Pluribus Unum," meaning "Out of many, one." Our forbears discovered the value inherent in this ideal, building a Nation where all people can live free, be equal under the law, and find opportunity for success in our free-enterprise system. From all points on earth, people of different races, faiths, and ethnicities came to this land to become Americans and thus heirs and stewards of the Founders' vision. This convergence of cultures contributed to the rich fabric of our Nation, uniquely threading together many divergent ideas, tastes, and traditions. Today, we enjoy a society shaped by this history, one Nation under one flag. Our Nation's response to the terrible events of September 11 demonstrated vividly the reality of the unity and resolve of our diverse people.

Since our Nation's founding, millions of Irish have emigrated to this country to embrace the vibrant promise of new opportunity that America offers. Some came to America seeking the freedom to worship as they pleased. Others came in the wake of the devastating Irish potato famine of 1845–1849, which caused 1 million deaths in Ireland and led nearly 1.5 million Irish to emigrate. And the many successes of the Irish immigrants in America proved to be a continuing draw to their friends and family who remained in Ireland. The Irish brought with them a spirit of life and an ethic of work that helped to enliven our culture and enabled them to prosper in their new land.

George Washington's Continental Army had over 20 generals of Irish descent. Americans proudly claiming Irish heritage have held positions of national leadership, including Presidents George Washington, Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan and Supreme Court Justices William J. Brennan, Jr., and Sandra Day O'Connor. And numerous Irish Americans have enjoyed great success in the arts and entertainment field, including Buster Keaton, Stephen Foster, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Throughout our history, America has been greatly blessed by the innumerable contributions of Irish Americans. This month we celebrate these great people and the heritage of their beautiful ancestral homeland, Ireland.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by learning about and commemorating the contributions of Irish Americans.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7527—National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, 2002

March 2, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year, more than 148,000 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and more than 56,000 people will die from this

disease. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, yet it is one of the most highly preventable forms of cancer. Early diagnosis is critical to survival. Research shows that 91 percent of patients with localized colorectal cancer survive for 5 years after diagnosis, yet only 37 percent of all diagnoses occur at this stage. The remaining 63 percent of cases are not discovered until the disease has spread throughout the body.

Because 75 percent of new cases occur in persons with no known risk factors, regular colorectal cancer screenings are crucial to prevention. Even for an individual without symptoms, screenings are extremely important. For those over 50 and for individuals with a family history of cancer, screenings should be scheduled on a regular basis. I am pleased to note that Medicare coverage for colonoscopies was expanded in 2001 to provide this screening to more beneficiaries, and many commercial health plans now cover this cost.

Many people avoid colorectal cancer screening due to fear or anxiety, however, it is important for all Americans to understand the importance of this routine procedure. During National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, I encourage all Americans to learn more about this disease, to assist prevention efforts, and to recognize the importance of colorectal screenings.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their loved ones from this disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this Second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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Proclamation 7528—Save Your Vision Week, 2002

March 2, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Healthy vision is a precious gift that allows us to enjoy the beauty of nature, the smile of a loved one, and the many wonders in the world around us. Unfortunately for 14 million Americans, eye problems can interfere with daily activities and inhibit the enjoyment of life.

Health officials have identified the most significant and preventable threats to vision. According to the Department of Health and Human Service's *Healthy People 2010* report, visual impairment represents one of our country's 10 most frequent causes of disability.

To help avoid or remedy vision problems, we must remain dedicated to the prevention of eye injuries, emphasize early detection of eye disease, work to research and develop new treatments and rehabilitation therapies, and promote vision health awareness. All Americans should take steps to ensure that eye health becomes a priority in our homes, businesses, and communities. We should commit to receiving regular dilated eye examinations; we should wear protective eyewear when necessary, both recreationally and on the job; and we must make every effort to ensure children age 5 and under receive vision screening.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 138), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as "Save Your Vision Week." During this year's observance, let us renew our commitment to fighting the causes of visual impairment and to supporting good eye health. I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to prevent eye problems and to help others maintain the invaluable asset of eyesight.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 3 through March 9, 2002, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all Americans to make eye care and eye safety an important part of their lives and to include dilated eye examinations in their regular health maintenance programs. I invite eye care professionals, the media, and all public and private organizations dedicated to preserving eyesight to join in activities that will raise awareness of measures we can take to protect and sustain our vision.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 4, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Educators and an Exchange With Reporters in Eden Prairie, Minnesota

March 4, 2002

The President. We had a really good discussion about education, the importance of public education in America. The better our public schools are, the better the quality of life for all our citizens. I also had a chance to listen to Minnesota teachers, people who have dedicated their lives to making our communities better by teaching children how to read and write and add and subtract, but also teaching children how to behave and how to learn through example. I cannot thank the teachers enough.

I hope that, through my words and deeds, I'm able to convince people to become a teacher, because it's such a noble profession, and it's such an important profession for America and our future. I absolutely believe there are—that this country can achieve anything we want. That includes making sure every child can read and every child has got a hopeful future because he or she has gotten a great public school education.

So I want to thank you all very much. I'm really looking forward to speaking to your school. Thanks for the hospitality, and thank you all very much for serving our country by being a—by being such good teachers.

Let me answer a few questions, then, of course——

Operation Anaconda

Q. Mr. President, will you need to increase the U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan or delay an expansion of the war on terrorism beyond Afghanistan as a result of the Al Qaida resurgence——

The President. Well, first of all, we've always known Al Qaida exists in Afghanistan. And from the beginning of this, I have cautioned the American people that this is going to take a while, that it's going to take a while to rout out Al Qaida wherever it tries to hide. The American people understand that.

And as you well know, over the weekend we've started an operation against a significant nest of Al Qaida fighters. These are people that, if they were to escape, could conceivably harm the United States again. And therefore, we're going to hunt them down wherever they try to hide.

And I am so proud of the men and women who wear our uniform. I appreciate the efforts of our coalition to chase down Al Qaida, to bring them to justice. I'm obviously saddened by the loss of life. All America is saddened when one of our soldiers loses life.

On the other hand, I think most Americans and I hope these parents and loved ones understand, the cause is important, and the cause is just. I rely—obviously, rely upon the advice of our commanders on the ground as to what is necessary to win. But we'll take whatever means is necessary to protect our service men and women. And we'll win this battle, and we'll keep battling Al Qaida wherever we find them.

In terms of the overall scope, the international scope, I have always said that sometimes the American people will see us—see our military in action, and sometimes they won't. But we will keep the pressure on Al Qaida. Our country is still under threat, and

so long as our country is under threat, this great Nation will hunt down those who want to harm innocent Americans.

Yes.

Q. Mr. President, how important is it for you to round up a lot of Al Qaida leaders in this particular battle that's going on? And do you have any indication at all whether Usama bin Laden might be in this area?

The President. I haven't heard from him since September—December the 11th. He's been awfully quiet. I don't know why. But I know he's on the run, if he's running at all. And I know there's no cave deep enough for Usama bin Laden. He hit a country that he thought was weak and feeble, and instead, he found out he hit a country that is determined to defend freedom. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We will defend our freedoms.

And the first part of your question? Leaders——

Q. Do you expect to——

The President. We're after any Al Qaida person.

Q. Do you have any reason to believe that there's a lot of them in this particular area?

The President. I believe there are some, and I'm not sure how many—enough for us to put together a significant coalition of Afghan, American, and other forces to rout them out. These are people that have got one thing in mind: They're going to harm innocent Afghan citizens. They want us to leave; they want us to be soft; they want us to let down our guard. And we're not going to do that, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

And we've been called into action. This Nation has been called to defend history—history has called us to defend freedom, and we're going to do that. And you should not be surprised that our troops will go into action in Afghanistan again. I have said repeatedly, we are in a dangerous phase of this war and—as we learned, much to our horror, the last couple of days when we lost life. But nevertheless, it is worth it, and it is necessary to bring these people to justice. If we do not, America could remain more vulnerable. If we do not find them, then we will have missed a great opportunity to make the world a safer place for our children and grandchildren.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Q. Mr. President, you said that one of the calculations that Al Qaida might have had is they thought Americans couldn't stomach the casualties.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think the American people are ready for this?

The President. I think any time somebody loses their life, the American people will mourn and are sad, and I feel that way, too.

On the other hand, I am just as determined now as I was a week ago or 3 months ago to fulfill this mission, and that is to make sure our country is safe from further attack. These people have made it absolutely clear—these people being Al Qaida—that they want to harm America again. And we will do everything in our power to not let them do so, and that means chasing them down from the mountains of Afghanistan or in Yemen or in the Philippines, using our vast coalition to bring these people to justice. These are killers; they're murderers. And I am—my job is to protect America and support our military during this historic time. And that's exactly what I'm going to do.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, the Mideast situation is—do you believe the Mideast situation has escalated out of control? And do you think the U.S. needs to do more to try to seize control?

The President. We are on the phone every single day, nearly—I say nearly; we might have missed a day or two—to the leaders in the Middle East, urging there to be a—less violence. I have said repeatedly that Chairman Arafat must do everything he can to convince those Palestinians who want to derail any possible peace to lay down their arms.

And the situation is terrible, anytime you lose as many innocent lives as has been lost in the Middle East. But that won't deter us from working hard, working the issue. I'm meeting with Hosni Mubarak tomorrow, and I'm sure we'll talk the Middle East and the process to try to get to the Tenet—and the Tenet plan, laid out by George Tenet, which is the first step toward bringing the violence down and making the area more secure, so

that we can eventually get into the Mitchell process, which then eventually will lead to some kind of settlement.

I appreciate the fact that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has laid out a vision for some political solution. But the first thing is, we've got to reduce the violence in order to be able to get the discussion started. And so we're spending a lot of time trying to get the people of that region to stop killing each other.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in classroom E2000 at Eden Prairie High School. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001.

Remarks at Eden Prairie High School in Eden Prairie

March 4, 2002

Thank you for that warm welcome. It's nice to be here at the home of the Screaming Eagles. They tell me you've got a good football team and a good high pom squad. But I'm really not interested in talking about athletics. I'm here because of the achievements, the academic achievements of the students, the quality of the teaching, and the involvement of the parents. I'm here because this is one of America's finest public schools.

I believe strongly in the hope and promise of the public school system all across America. And I know how important it is to thank our teachers, to thank those who come to your classrooms every day, to wish them the best, and to herald such a noble and important profession for the future of our country. I'm here to talk about teaching and its responsibilities and how our country can do a better job of supporting America's teachers. I know—look, I am sure a lot of you are out there saying, "The guy is still talking about teaching. I really get tired of seeing my teacher"—[*laughter*]—"particularly at test time." [*Laughter*] Trust me, you're going to miss your teachers. They're an important part of your life, and they're an important part of our country's future.

I really want to thank the—[*applause*]—I just had a meeting with a group of teachers from all over the area, and I want to thank them for being there to share some thoughts about how to make sure the school systems work as good as they possibly can. I want to thank Jeff, your school's principal, for, gosh, opening up this huge facility and inviting so many people here. I want to thank the superintendent of schools, Bill Gaslin. I want to thank my friend Mark Yudof from the University of Minnesota, who understands that—[*applause*]. About seven people appreciate you, Mark. [*Laughter*] I want to thank—the reason Mark—I want to herald Mark is that he understands that in order for a teacher to be able to teach, the teacher colleges have got to teach a curriculum that actually works in the classroom. And I appreciate his leadership.

I want to thank members of the U.S. congressional delegation, Gutknecht and Kennedy and Ramstad, for being here as well. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank my friend Norm Coleman, former mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota. Mary Kiffmeyer, the secretary of state, is here as well; thank you, Mary. And Christine Jax, the education commissioner of Minnesota, is here too. Thank you all for coming.

Before I talk about the importance of education and teaching, I do want to talk to the students about my desire to defend freedom, to try to put some context to what's taking place overseas into your life.

You know, I'm sure it must have been troubling for high school seniors to turn on their TV—or high school juniors or sophomores, for that matter—to see America under attack. When we grew up, the baby boomers and everybody else, we never really thought we'd be attacked. I mean, the last thing that I entered my mind when I was getting out of high school in 1964 is that an enemy would attack America. And yet, here you are graduating from high school, the first high school class to ever have seen the 48 contiguous States attacked by an enemy.

And you're probably wondering, why would somebody hit us? And it's because we love freedom. There are people in the world who cannot stand a free society. There are people who do not believe that you should be able to worship freely. There are people who do not believe you should be able to speak freely. There are people who do not believe that young women should be educated. And when they find a nation that's willing to defend freedom, they try to attack it.

And when they attacked us, they thought we were soft and materialistic. They thought our Nation had no fiber and no courage. They fell prey to images of a selfish American—a selfish America. And my, did they make a huge mistake, because this nation will defend ourselves and freedom at any price. It is too precious a gift—it is too precious a gift for future generations to give up to terrorists.

You know, I laid out an initiative that said, you're either with us, or you're against us; either you stand with America to defend freedom, so that you can grow up and your children can grow up in a society, in a civilized world that values individual freedoms. And most nations of the world chose to be with us. And for that, our Nation is grateful.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you try to encourage a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who murdered thousands of innocent Americans. And the Taliban has found out exactly what we meant.

I am so proud of our United States military. Many of you who have got relatives in the military, you need to tell them how proud I am of their service and of their sacrifice and of their dedication.

We went into Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. It's hard for you to believe, I'm certain, that Afghanistan, when it was taken over by the Taliban—a government that sponsored terrorism, that allowed Al Qaida killers to hide and train in their country—would not allow young girls to go to school. It's hard for any American to understand how barbaric this regime was. We didn't go in as conquerors. We went in as liberators, and now women and children are free from the clutches of these barbaric people.

People say, "Well, how long is this going to last?" And the answer is, for however long it takes to make sure America is secure. People say, "Well, the hard part is over with." And my answer is, "No. It's not." We're just beginning—as we learned recently that there's an Al Qaida—a group of Al Qaida killers in a mountainous region in Afghanistan. And when we find them bunched up and we find where they are, you can rest assured the United States and our coalition are going to hunt them down, that these are people that, if we allow to go free, could easily come back and harm the American citizens.

And so we sent teams in—and there is some serious combat as I speak—and lives are lost. And we send our prayers and tears to those whose families have lost life. But I want to assure the students who are here and the loved ones of those military, defending freedom is a noble cause, and it is a just cause. And so long as I am the President of the United States, I will pursue those who want to hurt America and who want to take away our freedoms.

I'm confident that over time, we'll prevail. I'm confident that this mighty Nation has got the patience and the determination and the will to succeed. And when we do, the world will be better off.

And I'm confident that we can do what we need to do here at home to make sure every child is educated. It is so important that we achieve that objective. I was fortunate enough to be the President at a time when the people in Congress realized that—maybe with a little bit of my persuasion—that we needed to reform our school system. And I signed an historic reform bill. It was one of those wonderful moments in Washington where a group of us put aside our party politics—said, "It's okay to be a Republican; it's okay to be a Democrat. But what's most important is to function on what's best for America." And we got a bill done.

It's a good piece of education reform that says that in America, we believe in educating every child—each and every child—and that we must bring high hopes and high standards to every school and every neighborhood all across America.

As a result of this bill, parents will know whether their child or their child's school is succeeding in meeting that ambitious goal, because schools will have to test and publish the results. From now on, teaching reading will be the first priority of every elementary school in America.

My friend Phyllis Hunter put it best: The new civil right in America is teaching every single child to read. And from now on, schools in low-income neighborhoods will have the same high expectations as everybody else.

These reforms were passed in Washington, but the success of the reform will ultimately come down to the teacher in the classroom. There are a lot of really great teachers in America. I know you've got a lot of really great teachers here. But we want to make sure there is a great teacher in every classroom. And it starts by making sure that teachers coming out of teacher schools know how to teach the subjects that they're going to take into the classroom.

Interestingly enough, now, about 35 States require new teachers to take an exit exam—an entrance exam into the teaching profession to make sure that they can pass the test in the subject they teach. Sometimes, the standard is so low that all you have to do is answer half the questions, and you're in. That doesn't make sense to me, and you know, it doesn't make sense to good teachers. Teachers want their profession to have the highest of high standards. And so in order to make sure every school has got a teacher, we're going to work with the States to make sure that the exit exams, those exams for teachers being—going into the teaching ranks, exiting college, have high standards, that they can pass a test in the subject they're going to teach, and that every teacher be licensed or certified.

Every public school teacher in America must demonstrate competence in his or her field of instruction. If we want to have a teaching profession that is held in high regard, we must have confidence in the teacher colleges and those coming into the teacher ranks that they can do the job expected of them. We owe it to the parents, and most of all, we owe it to the students.

We also understand what a good teacher can accomplish in a young life. Our new economy demands higher and higher skills, and good teachers provide those skills. But it's only one part of the teacher's job. Just as life is more than a race to the riches—and life should be more than a race to the riches—education is more than a search for skills. Look, you probably have already forgotten the isosceles triangle or photosynthesis. [*Laughter*] But hopefully you did learn how to try hard and how to work hard and how to take pride in your work, exactly what your teachers are teaching you. You learn to study, and you learn to communicate, and you learn to appreciate the living truth of history and literature. A good teacher instills a sense of your own possibilities, along with your willingness to respect other people.

We ask a lot of our teachers. We expect them to teach knowledge and skills. We expect them to welcome measurement and accountability. We expect them to have sound character, and we expect them to teach by example.

And the teachers have a right to expect certain things in return. They have a right to expect every child will come to school ready to learn and that good manners and respect for teachers will be taught at home. And that's the responsibility of moms and dads. After all, a parent is a child's first teacher. And when the children show up for school, they should already know the basics of good manners and good discipline.

Teachers are also entitled to expect some things from government. As we raise the expectations of our schools, we must give our schools the tools to succeed. As we ask more of our teachers, we must take their side. We must be their allies, and all of us, all around America, must give them the support they need to do their jobs.

My administration is supporting teachers in getting the training they need to raise educational standards. We have appropriated nearly $3 billion made available to States to recruit, to prepare, and to train teachers. That is more than a 35 percent increase over last year's budget. This is the greatest Federal commitment to quality teachers and principals. And it's important, and it's necessary if we're going to achieve the reforms

inherent in the No Child Left Behind bill. Much of the training will focus on specific needs, like special education and math and science instruction and early reading.

The truth of the matter is, if we don't teach the children to read, they're not going to understand math and science. We have got to make sure our elementary school teachers have the skills and tools necessary to teach every child in America how to read. And that means starting in preschool, and that means making sure that the preschool teachers know what works.

And that's why I heralded Mark Yudof. Listen, reading is a science. Mark said, "Well, explain what you mean by 'reading is a science.'" That means, teach what works. We know what works. Some reading programs sound good, but they don't work. Let's use curriculum that actually works. Phonics works, and it needs to be an integral part of the reading curriculum all around America.

And so one of the things we're doing is setting up a clearinghouse of the most recent and reliable information on what works so that districts and teachers can access information and, if need be, change curriculum so that standards are met and no children are simply shuffled through the school system because they may seem to be hard to educate.

So there's money in the budget for training, retention, and recruitment, and we'll also support teachers by welcoming more talent and experience into the ranks. Over the next decade, school districts will need to hire 2.2 million teachers. And we must recruit new teachers. And we must remind people, if you're looking for something to do that will have an incredible impact on people's lives, think about, when you go to college, getting a teacher's certificate; think about going into the classroom. It is such a noble and important profession.

But there are also other ways to attract. For example, I'm a strong supporter, as is the administration, for a program called Teach for America, which recruits and trains outstanding college graduates to teach for at least 2 years in our neediest public schools. We're increasing funding for a program called Transition for Teaching, a program that puts professionals like lawyers and accountants and scientists into public school classrooms and give them the teacher training they need. I'm also committed to expanding a great program called Troops to Teachers, which encourages military personnel, upon retirement, to get into the classroom, to bring the skills they have learned in the defense of the United States to the children of the United States. These are programs all aimed at recruiting people, encouraging people, and giving people the skills necessary to enjoy one of life's most noble professions, teaching children.

My administration will support teachers who are committed to educating disadvantaged students. Education—education is the surest way out of poverty. Children who live in low-income neighborhoods can succeed, absolutely, but they need people willing to teach them. Many schools in high-poverty areas are having trouble finding—filling the teacher vacancies. So we'll help them by expanding student loan forgiveness for teachers willing to teach math, science, and special education in these schools for at least 5 years. Right now our Government forgives up to $5,000 in student loans. If someone is willing to teach math, science, or special ed in a school that is having trouble recruiting teachers, then we ought to forgive up to $17,500 in student loans.

I just met with Patrick Pelini. He's an English teacher at Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis. Here's what he said. He said that low-income students are hungry to be taught. He said that mentoring and teaching students in his school has been a tremendously gratifying experience for Patrick. Let me tell you something: This guy is committed. He is a solid citizen of your State. He is focused and dedicated on making sure every child gets educated. If he had any student loans, they ought to be forgiven.

But the next Patricks ought to have their student loans forgiven, so that they end up teaching in these schools where it's having trouble recruiting teachers. It makes sense; it's good public policy. And if we want to make sure no child is left behind, let's encourage really bright, smart people to head into those schools.

We will support our teachers by allowing them to enforce discipline in the classrooms. So behave yourself. [*Laughter*]

Albert Shanker said this—he was a great advocate for teachers—he said, "The amount of disruption in our schools is much larger than it needs to be because it's tolerated." He knew that learning only takes place in an atmosphere of order, and for the sake of the teachers, we must make sure they're in charge of their classrooms. And we took a huge step in that direction in the new bill I signed.

And it's because of this—many teachers are wary of imposing discipline, because they might be sued. Somebody might file a lawsuit against them. Well, because of what we call the teacher protection law, teachers and principals and other school professionals can take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom without the fear of being hauled into court. We are taking frivolous lawsuits out of the learning process and empowering teachers to be able to maintain order in their classrooms. America is going to be a lot better off for this law I signed, and so will the teaching profession.

One of the interesting initiatives that I hope Congress passes is this one: Committed teachers oftentimes have to buy supplies for their students out of their own pocket. The average across the Nation is $400 per teacher. And yet they cannot deduct that from their income taxes. Look, if a business person can take somebody out to lunch and deduct it, teachers ought to be allowed to deduct the supplies they purchase for their classrooms.

And finally, I understand that all wisdom isn't in Washington, DC. As a matter of fact—there is some wisdom there. [*Laughter*] But if you're interested in quality education, if you really want to make a huge difference in making sure the public schools meet the high standards and high objectives, you've got to trust the local people to make the right decisions for the schools. You've got to trust the parents and teachers and principals and school board members in order to chart the path for excellence.

And part of that means giving school districts and States the flexibility to spend Federal money on what they need the most. Some districts will provide incentives for new teachers. If you're having trouble attracting a teacher, you can use your Federal monies to attract teachers. Some will want to spend more money on teacher development. Many districts may want to use it to increase teacher pay. Flexibility with Federal money will help local folks meet the needs in order to chart the path for excellence, so every child learns.

And so in Washington, we're working to enhance the professionalism of the teacher ranks and in reminding America what a noble profession teaching is. We talk about teacher training and teacher recruitment and teacher authority and local control of schools.

I want the teachers here to know how much I respect what you do and how I appreciate the effort and care and compassion you show on a daily basis. One of the young teachers in there said, "You know, I decided that I wanted to teach instead of trying to get rich." That attitude is a fabulous attitude for America. It's really what I think is going to come out of this attack by the evil people. I think we're all beginning to take a hard look at the value of life, why we're here on the face of the Earth.

You know, today we've got a guy named Will Gove with us. Will is right here. Let me tell you something about Will. Can I say your age? Eighty-three, World War II vet, social entrepreneur. Here's a guy—I think he said he could sit around the 19th hole drinking martinis if he wanted to. [*Laughter*] Was it martinis or beer? Anyway, instead, he builds soccer fields. Instead, he reads newspaper articles so that blind folks can get the news. Instead, he is a mentor. Instead, this guy is a soldier in the army of compassion, which exists all across America.

Will, I want to thank you for your example, for your living example of someone who puts his heart and soul into making our community a better place, someone who understands that you ought to love somebody just like you want to be loved yourself, that a complete life is one that is much greater than simple materialism.

The enemy hit us. They thought we were a materialistic society. But they didn't know we were made up of Wills. They didn't know,

truly, what the fabric of our country was made out of.

You know, one of the things that I hear a lot of youngsters asking is, "What can I do in the war against terror? What can I do to be a part of my Nation's efforts to defend freedom?" Well, let me tell you what you can do. You can make somebody's life better off. You can walk into a shut-in's house on a daily basis and say, "What can I do to help you?" You can mentor a child. You can go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque, and you can put together a food drive. You can make somebody's life better. In order to stand up in the face of evil, you can do something good. It's the millions of acts of kindness and decency and compassion that define America and stand strong in the face of evil.

USAfreedomcorps.gov is a place where you can go if you're interested in serving somebody greater than yourself, a cause greater than yourself, to help somebody in need. If you want to figure out some way to enrich your life, think about being a teacher, or think about following the example of Will. If you want to do something, think about my friend Mary Copeland, who runs a prayer service, who understands the importance of faith in people's lives. With faith in people's lives, you can kick drugs and alcohol, and you can realize a better tomorrow.

What I'm saying to the students is, you're fortunate enough to live in a great nation, a nation not defined by its Government but a nation defined by values that we hold dear and a nation defined by the hearts and souls of decent and loving and caring people. I'm proud of our country. I'm optimistic of our future. And I'm honored to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless you all. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the Activities Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jeff Ireland, principal, Eden Prairie High School; Bill Gaslin, superintendent of schools, Eden Prairie School District 272; Mark G. Yudof, president, University of Minnesota; Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative; and Mary Jo Copeland, founder and director, Sharing and Caring Hands.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senatorial Candidate Norm Coleman in Minneapolis, Minnesota

March 4, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you for that warm welcome. Tonight I'm here for one simple reason: I want Norm Coleman to become the next United States Senator from Minnesota. And so do a lot of other people in Minnesota, as witnessed by this crowd. Thank you all for coming, and thank you for supporting this really good man.

I want to thank Gene for his kind comments. And Pat, thank you very much. I want to thank members of the United States congressional delegation who are here tonight, Gil Gutknecht and Mark Kennedy and Jim Ramstad, three fine Members of the House of Representatives. Your dollars will not only help Ron but will help these three Members get reelected, as well.

I want to thank those of you who work in the grassroots of the Republican Party, defending values that make America stronger. And I want to thank my fellow Americans for your support and your kind prayers.

I really want to thank Laurie Coleman as well. She is obviously going to be a strong asset in the Coleman campaign. And like Norm, I married above myself, too. [*Laughter*]

I'm really proud of Laura. You know, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. She really wasn't fond of politicians or political speeches. Man, what a great First Lady she has become. She's a fabulous wife, a great mother of our 20-year-old twin daughters, and has been such a calm and positive influence on Americans all across our country. I'm grateful for her sacrifice, and I love her.

I'm really impressed by Norm. You know, in this line of work we're in, you've got the good talkers, and then you've got the doers. In this case, obviously, he's a good talker and a doer. [*Laughter*] He's an independent thinker, and that's important for the State of Minnesota. But he's a person who tries

to figure out how to get things done, and he has done so in St. Paul, Minnesota. He's a man of accomplishment. He knows what it takes to succeed. He's a proven leader. He's a practical guy that focuses on results, and that's the kind of United States Senator you need in the State of Minnesota.

The record speaks for itself. It's a record of accomplishment. It's a record that understands the role of the private sector in the revitalization of community. But what I love is Norm's passion for education. I love a person who understands that the power of education can make America a much more hopeful place. I appreciate a man who stands tall for making sure every child is educated and no child is left behind. I hope the people of Minnesota, from all parties, understand what a good and decent, honorable man Norm Coleman is and to send him to the United States Senate.

We've got some big things ahead of us in this Nation. We have got a war to win. My biggest job, the most important job I have, is to defend this Nation and our people, and defend this Nation and our people is exactly what I intend to do. [*Applause*] Thank you.

The enemy really misunderstood America. When they attacked us, they must have thought we were soft, that we were so materialistic that we wouldn't understand sacrifice and duty and honor. They thought we would blink, and they made a huge mistake.

In the course of this conflict, I made it clear that either you're with us, either you stood with the United States and our defense for freedom across the world, or you were against us. And a lot of nations heard that call, and they stand with us. And for that, we're grateful.

I also made it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, if you try to hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as those who murdered thousands of innocent lives, and you will be held accountable, too. And thanks to our fabulous men and women who wear the uniform, that doctrine in the first theater in the war against terror has been upheld.

We went to Afghanistan not as conquerors but as liberators. Not only did we uphold the doctrine of harboring a terrorist; we freed women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes history has ever seen. I can't tell you how proud I am of the U.S. military.

I am proud of our military, and I'm so very proud of the American people. The American people are patient and calm in the face of danger. The American people understand that history has called this Nation into action. The American people understand that the struggle we face is going to be long and arduous, but a united Nation has sent a loud message to the rest of the world: We will defend freedom; we will defend the values we hold dear, no matter what the price.

I have submitted a budget to the United States Congress that has got the largest increase in defense spending in a generation, for this reason: Any time the United States sends our men and women who wear our uniform into harm's way, they must have the best equipment, the best training, and another pay raise. And I ask the Congress to pass that budget. It is important for the United States Congress to understand that the price of freedom is high, but the price of freedom is never too high.

It is important for the world to understand that we struggle not just for freedom but for civilization itself. If the United States were to blink, the rest of the world will be lulled to sleep. And this country, so long as I am the President, will be steadfast in our leadership and in our resolve to lead the world to more freedom and more liberty and more opportunity for everybody on the face of the Earth.

Every morning I wake up and read what they call a threat assessment. I get to walk into the grand Oval Office. It's such a fabulous office, by the way. It's such an honor to be working in that shrine. I'm an early morning kind of guy. I get there generally around 7 o'clock. Spot, the dog, goes with me. [*Laughter*] Spot was born at the White House, when Mother and Dad were there, so she's quite comfortable with the surroundings. [*Laughter*] Barney, the one-year-old Scottish terrier, does not get to go. I just got a brand new rug in the Oval Office. [*Laughter*]

But I sit at this grand desk where the Roosevelts have sat, other Presidents, and I read threats to the United States of America. I

realize that there is a barbaric enemy that hates what we stand for, hates our freedoms, hates our openness, people who cannot stand the fact that we're able to worship freely in America, that we're able to express our opinions in America, that America is a place where we have spirited elections, but we're a sound and solid democracy.

I recognize that I will—have got to do everything I can to make sure that we respond to these threats. And so we've put together a homeland defense strategy that coordinates activities with the Federal law enforcement level, State law enforcement level, and the local law enforcement level. We're running down every hint, every threat, every possible threat. I can't tell you how proud I am of the FBI and the men and women who wear the uniform of the police in Minnesota and all around the country. These folks are working overtime to secure America.

We've got a first-responders initiative that will make it more likely that, if there's an attack, the good police and emergency folks and fire folks of Minneapolis or St. Paul can respond. We've got a bioterrorism initiative that, after it's all said and done, may end up actually providing incentive for—be able to provide an impetus to find cures for diseases that will plague us. We've got a better border security initiative going on. We're going to do a better job of understanding who's coming into our country and who's leaving their country and why they're here in the first place.

We're buttoning up America. And I want to thank my fellow citizens for being on alert and for those who are working overtime to protect you. But I want to remind my countrypeople, my fellow countrymen, that the surest way to secure the country, the best way to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful and hopeful world, is to hunt down the terrorists wherever they try to hide and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we will do.

It's obvious, the news has shown that we're still active in Afghanistan. We have found a significant Al Qaida group of killers, and the Afghans, along with our Special Forces, along with other coalition members, are hunting them down. America must realize this is a dangerous phase of this war. And we lost life today. And I know all of us mourn for the family members who have lost their life, but I can assure them that the cause is just. Defending freedom and defending the homeland is a noble and just cause. And I hope they're as proud of them as I am.

Our efforts go beyond Afghanistan, as you're beginning to realize. We'll team up with any friendly government that's interested in bringing Al Qaida and terrorists to justice. We've arrested over 1,000 people outside the Afghan theater and bringing them to justice.

But I also laid down another dictum, and it's this: In order for our children to be free, we must never allow transparent dictators—nontransparent dictators to develop weapons of mass destruction, thereby enabling them to mate up with terrorist organizations. We will not allow the world's worst regimes to develop the world's worst weapons and hold America and our friends and our allies hostage.

I know this is going to be a long and difficult time for America. But we are up for the task. America will lead this world to a more secure and a more hopeful future.

And we've got a job to do at home, as well. You know, when I was campaigning in Chicago, I'll never forget, one of the reporters said, "Would you ever allow any deficit spending?" I said, "Only if we had a recession or an emergency or a war." [*Laughter*] Thankfully, the Nation is resolved to fight the war. Thankfully, we had thousands of citizens rise to deal with the emergency. And thankfully, we cut the taxes on the American people to deal with the recession.

The best thing we did to deal with the recession is to allow people to keep more of their own money, so they can spend it and provide more demand and, therefore, the corresponding supply. The best way to deal with a recession is to trust the American people with their own money.

For a while you heard some of them talking in Washington that they were going to stop the tax relief plan. I do not know what economic textbook they were reading, but one thing you don't do is raise the taxes on the people in the midst of a recession. What you do is trust the private sector. What you do is incent people to create more jobs. What

you do is understand the best economic recovery plan has got one word, and that is "jobs". How do we create jobs for the working people in the United States of America?

And there are some things we can do to create jobs, besides providing tax incentives. One, we can have an energy plan that makes sense. I came to Minnesota to lay out my vision for an energy plan that says: We can conserve better; we must modernize our electricity; but for the sake of our national security, we need to develop more oil and gas here at home. The less dependent we are on foreign sources of crude oil, the more secure America will be in the long run.

And we've got to get a good farm bill out, one that encourages—one that does not encourage overproduction, one that recognizes, however, that our farmers hurt, that there needs to be a reasonable safety net, and one that recognizes this fact: Minnesota's farmers, along with the rest of the farmers in America, are the best at what they do in the world. And if you're the best at what you do in the world, we ought to open up more markets for you to sell into the world.

And we must understand the power of value-added processing. When I campaigned for President, I said I supported ethanol. And as President of the United States, I support ethanol as a way to reduce our dependency on foreign sources of crude oil and as a way to clean the air in the United States of America.

And we're making good progress on other fronts. Today I went to Eden Prairie High School, and I've got to tell you, if you've got kids there, I was really proud of the student body. They actually listened. [*Laughter*] But it was a chance to tout a really good piece of legislation that we got passed. You know, I am passionate about making sure that we do not leave any child behind in America. I am passionate on challenging systems that simply shuffle children through the school system without understanding whether they can read or write or add and subtract.

The bill I signed says a couple of key points. One, if you receive Federal money, show us whether or not children are learning. If you receive a dime of Federal money, we expect every child in America to be learning how to read and write and add and subtract.

Lest you think I forgot where I came from, however, I understand all wisdom does not exist in Washington, DC, that the people who know best how to run the school systems are the local folks, that we've got to pass power out of Washington, DC, to provide maximum flexibility to the local districts, local schools, local—the States. Listen, the more flexibility there is at the local level, the more likely it is every single child in America will learn. This is a great piece of legislation, and it took both Republicans and Democrats to get it passed.

I don't know if you remember, but right after I signed that bill, I had the honor of traveling the country with two Democrat sponsors and two Republican sponsors. It probably shocked you—I know it shocked the folks in Crawford, Texas—[*laughter*]—that I actually said kind things about Ted Kennedy. But he got it out of the United States Senate. He made it happen. This good piece of legislation would not have happened without the work of both Republicans and Democrats. It shows what is possible when we put our political differences aside and focus on the children in America.

And it's that attitude—that point of view is why I'm so strongly supporting Norm Coleman. That's what we need in Washington. We need people who go up there not to represent, you know, a narrow interest but to work to change the tone of Washington, DC, to make Washington the kind of place where people look at and say, "I'm proud of my Government, that Government can actually get things done in a positive way." And that's what we need to continue to work on. It's so important in order to rally the country.

You know, I'm asked all the time, what can—people say, "Well, what can I do to help in the war against terror? What is it that I can do?" Well, my answer is pretty straightforward. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to show the world the true side of America, our heart, our decency, our compassion, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Find a child who wonders whether or not America is meant for them, and put your arm around that child and say, "I love you." That's how you can fight evil. Walk into the house of a shut-in and say, "Neighbor, what can

I do to help you?" Support your teachers. Get involved in a faith-based program, understanding that faith can change people's hearts, and by changing people's hearts, we can change their lives. The way to fight evil is through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness, is to show the world the true face of the American people.

I am so optimistic about this country because I understand our resolve and our unity. I understand our courage. You know, probably the most meaningful event that took place, as far as I'm concerned, right after September—or during the September 11th and afterwards—was Flight 93, when Americans were on a telephone to their wives. They said the Lord's Prayer. They then said to their wives, "I love you," and drove an airplane in the ground to save other people's lives. This notion about us being a shallow, materialistic society went down the tubes with the courageous people on Flight 93.

It leads me to believe that out of these acts of incredible evil will come some great good. If we remain strong, the world will be more peaceful. And here at home, I think we have an opportunity to help change a culture—one that has said, if it feels good, go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else. I see a different culture, one in which we understand we're all responsible for the actions we take in life, that we're responsible—that part of a responsibility era means that each mom and dad in America must love their children with all their heart and all their soul. A responsibility era calls us all to help neighbors in need. A responsibility era recognizes the worth in serving a cause greater than self. A responsibility era understands that sacrifice for the good of your fellow human beings is worth it.

Listen, this is a fabulous nation. It's a fabulous nation not because of our Government. It is a fabulous nation because of the hearts and souls of the American people. And it is such a huge honor to be the President of the United States, of such a great land.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Minneapolis Hilton and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Gene Frey, who introduced the President; Patricia A. Harvey, superintendent, Saint Paul Public Schools; Ron Eibensteiner, chair, Republican Party of Minnesota; and Laurie Coleman, wife of former Mayor Coleman of St. Paul.

Memorandum on Funding for International Organizations

March 4, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–08

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination Pursuant to Section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002, (Public Law 107–115)

Pursuant to section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002, (Public Law 107–115), I hereby certify that withholding from international financial institutions and other international organizations and programs funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to that Act is contrary to the national interest.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 5, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Remarks to the White House Conference on Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers

March 5, 2002

Well, thank you all for coming to the White House. I appreciate the focus of this summit more than you can possibly know, because I understand the important role a teacher plays in the lives of our children. I've had some firsthand experience with teachers playing a role in my life. I married one, thank

goodness. And I appreciate Laura's leadership on this important subject, and I also appreciate the calm and steady demeanor she brought in time of crisis for the country. Good job.

I want to thank Lynne Cheney for being here, as well. She is a brilliant lady who knows a lot about education reform. Dick and I both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Rod Paige for being here. You know, when I picked somebody to run the Department of Education, I was looking for somebody who had actually been in the trenches of the public school system. I really didn't want a theorist; I wanted a practical person. And when I was the Governor of Texas, I noticed that the test scores for children who weren't supposed to learn in Houston, Texas, were improving. And I realized it had to do with a lot of the leadership capacity of our Secretary of Education.

I want to thank you, Rod, for being here today, and thank you for taking on the tough jobs.

I appreciate Sandra Feldman. I'm going to say something about her a little later on. Where's Sandra? Hey, Sandra. Thank you for coming.

I want to thank my friend Mark Yudof, who's the head of the University of Minnesota. Where are you, Yudof? Anyway, there he is. Hi, Mark. Charles, how are you? We flew back from Minnesota last night, and Mark is here because he understands that teacher colleges must be relevant in the lives of teachers if we want every child to learn.

I appreciate the Members of Congress who are here. I will tell you that I signed a really good piece of legislation, the "no child will be left behind" legislation. It is historic; it is landmark; it would not have happened without Ted Kennedy. And I appreciate your leadership on that, Senator.

I want to thank Johnny Isakson for being here. Johnny and Ralph Regula, thank you both for coming. Lindsey Graham is here, from South Carolina. Lindsey is going to sponsor a piece of legislation that will allow for teachers to have loan—those who teach in Title I schools or teach in high need areas will be able to forgive up to $17,500 in college loans. And I appreciate that.

I understand Chairman Boehner was able to listen to Laura but didn't care about hearing me—[*laughter*]—so he left. And Susan Collins is going to sponsor legislation for the tax relief for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses, which I'll talk about a little bit too.

But we've set a high bar here in Washington as a result of Federal reform. We expect a lot. We expect children to learn. We believe every child can learn, and we want to know whether they are or not. We want to measure. See, we believe that if you hold—if you use the accountability system properly, you can determine whether a curriculum is working or not, whether classroom instruction methodology is working. But as importantly—more importantly—you can detect problems early and secure them before it's too late. Every child matters, and that's exactly what the heart of this legislation is all about.

And as a result of the piece of legislation, we're expecting a lot from our teachers. We really are. We expect them to know their subjects. We want new teachers to be able to pass rigorous examinations, so as to not only earn the confidence of parents and administrators but to increase the professionalism of a very important field. We expect teachers to be able to communicate basic skills, and we expect our teachers to welcome measurement and accountability. We expect them, as always, to be examples to our children, to live a life of good character.

And our teachers have a right to expect certain things from us. First, they have the right to expect every parent to teach their children good manners and respect for the teacher in the classroom. Teachers have the right to expect support for their professional development, and teachers have a right to be treated like the professionals they are.

Laura and I will spend a lot of time in the country honoring the teaching profession, making sure it's clear to Americans from all walks of life that being a teacher is noble and important and an incredibly important part of the future of our country.

This administration is committed to a goal, and I know it's shared by Members of Congress, that we'll have a quality teacher in every classroom in America. We have backed that commitment, thanks to the work of

members of both political parties, with the greatest Federal investment ever in quality teachers and principals. We have made $3 billion of grants available to States to recruit, to prepare, and to train teachers, a 35 percent increase over last year's budget.

We're focusing much of the teacher training effort on specific needs, like special education or math or science, and one of my passions, early reading. The Reading First program is aimed at making sure every child of every background can read by the third grade. Reading is the new civil right. If you can't read, you can't realize the great American Dream. We want every child to read, and I believe with the right focus, right effort, every child will read in America, and the country is going to be a lot better off for it.

We're going to make sure teachers have the tools necessary to meet the goals we've set. One of the things we're going to do is create a clearinghouse, the most recent and most reliable information, on what works in teaching. We want teachers to be able to access the best information. We want those who are interested in improving their skills to be able to do so at the click of a mouse.

We want to make sure the teachers control their classrooms. And part of the legislation I signed was the teacher protection law, which says that teachers and principals and school professionals can take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom without fear of a Federal lawsuit. I think that if we really are sincere about supporting our teachers, we must understand that a calm classroom, a respectful classroom is a necessary ingredient for a teacher to be able to do his or her job.

We support teachers who sacrifice for their students. I don't know if people realize this, but on the average, teachers deduct up to $400—now spend $400 out of their pocket to pay for supplies. My first reaction is, that's not right—it's not that the fact isn't right—it's not right that they have to do that. But in that they do have to do it, it makes sense to allow a teacher to deduct that expense. If a business person can deduct a meal, a teacher certainly ought to be able to deduct the cost of pencils or a Big Chief tablet.

Teachers need our support. And they need our support in more than just training teachers; they need our support in empowering teachers. And one of the important parts of the bill that I signed divests power out of Washington, gives teachers more flexibility in the classroom and more authority to the local districts.

And that includes the flexibility to spend the money wisely. Districts will be able to use the $3 billion to meet their specific needs. It may be in recruiting, in recruitment for teachers. It may be to spend money on teacher development. It may be to meet needs by spending more money on teacher salaries. But flexibility is one of the hallmarks of this new piece of legislation, and all wisdom isn't here in Washington. The truth of the matter is, if we really are going to set high standards and expect people to meet them, we've got to trust the local folks to chart the path to excellence. And that's what this bill does. We're not only giving them more responsibility, we're giving them freedom.

The great task of education reform is now to meet these goals and to make sure our teachers have got the capacity to do so, to make sure they're well-trained, to make sure they've got the best science available to them, to make sure we gather information and share it with the professionals in the classroom.

It's also to recognize the worth of teaching. And one of the things Sandra Feldman has done as she's led the American Federation of Teachers is she's brought a lot of class to the teaching profession. I ran into Sandra—she said, "Is there any way we can work together?" I said, "You bet. You bet there is."

And so today it's my honor to announce that the Department of Education and the American Federation of Teachers is going to work together to provide teachers with research-based information, to make sure teachers can do their job. Teachers will be given the opportunity to teach—to understand what works.

Somebody said, "What does it mean, scientific-based education?" My attitude is, does it work? Does the curriculum actually teach a child how to read? Our teachers must

know how to teach reading. They must know what works when it comes to teaching reading, if we expect them to meet national goals of every child reading by the third grade. I look forward to hearing the progress that is made between the Department of Education and your organization, Sandra.

As well, we're going to work together to identify programs that encourage and prepare folks to become teachers. I know you've heard of Teach for America or Troops for Teachers. There are all kinds of ways we can attract people into the teacher ranks. And we must be innovative and creative to do so. We're going to need 2.2 million teachers over the next decade in order to make sure America is an educated society. And again, Sandra, thanks for taking a leadership role.

I believe so strongly in education. I know that as we battle the ills of our society, poverty and hopelessness, education is the great beacon and the great hope. I strongly believe that our public school system will continue to meet the challenges of the 21st century. And I'm not afraid to advocate change where change is needed. And I look forward to joining forces with those who are just as committed as I am to an excellent public school system, as committed as I am to battling a system which oftentimes gives up on children by just simply shuffling them through. That's inadequate for the America that I know, because every child matters and every child counts.

We've laid the groundwork, Senator, for a reform movement that will recognize the worth of each and every individual. And that movement will be fulfilled as we make sure our teachers are given the tools and skills and orderly classrooms necessary to achieve a grand and noble objective for our country.

I want to thank you all for coming for this very important conference. May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sandra Feldman, president, American Federation of Teachers; Mark G. Yudof, president, University of Minnesota; and Charles Miller, chairman, board of regents, University of Texas System. He also referred to Public Law 107–110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, approved January 8, 2002; and Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

The President's News Conference With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

March 5, 2002

President Bush It's my honor to welcome President Mubarak to the White House again. The United States has got a close and meaningful relationship with Egypt. The relationship is a cornerstone for our policy in the Middle East. I value my friendship with President Mubarak. I always appreciate our candid conversations. Our nations are united by ties of friendship and a shared commitment to regional stability, economic prosperity, and peace.

Today, the strategic partnership between our countries is more important than ever, as we confront the threat of global terror. And I want to thank the President for his steadfast support in our war against terror. Egypt has been a good friend, and I'm grateful.

We also meet at a moment when the people of both our countries are gravely concerned about escalating violence in the Middle East. Each day brings fresh reports of more lives lost and more Palestinian and Israeli families shattered by those losses. Both our countries view this situation with great alarm. We both feel deep sympathy for the people in the region who are trying to live their lives in peace, and we're both determined to redouble our efforts to work for peace.

We talked extensively today about our efforts. President Mubarak has a long history of advancing peace and stability in the Middle East. My country has set forth a goal, which I stated last November at the United Nations: We're committed to two states, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully together within secure and recognized borders, as called for by the Security Council resolutions of the United Nations.

The United States also believes that this goal is only possible if there is a maximum effort to end violence throughout the region, starting with the Palestinian efforts to stop attacks against Israelis.

We want to work with the parties to implement the Tenet security plan and then the Mitchell recommendations. We stand ready to return General Zinni to the region when appropriate. The Israeli-Palestinian situation will be an important topic of Vice President Cheney's upcoming visit to the region. And we're willing to work with all our friends in the region to see how we can build on the vision for peace recently advanced by Crown Prince Abdullah.

President Mubarak and I also spoke about the full range of interests that our nations share. We welcomed the decision yesterday by Secretary Powell and the Foreign Minister of Egypt to initiate a U.S.-Egyptian strategic dialog to provide regular coordination on political, economic, and military issues.

We also discussed how important it is to expand economic opportunities in the Middle East and help more young people acquire the education and technical expertise they need to embrace opportunities as they arise. I've asked Secretary Powell to launch a new initiative aimed at increasing both economic and educational opportunities throughout the region.

Egypt was the first Arab State to stretch out its hand for peace in the Middle East, and it has worked hard to preserve its peace with Israel, even during difficult times. I know that Egypt will continue to be a vital partner as we seek to help the parties move forward in the months to come toward a broader Middle Eastern peace.

I want to thank President Mubarak for coming back to Washington, and now it's my honor to welcome him to the podium.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

Good evening. Before commenting on my discussions with President Bush, I want to reiterate my personal condolences and those of the Egyptian people to you, Mr. President, and to the American people and all those who suffered in the tragic events of September 11th. Let me seize this occasion to reaffirm that Egypt has always been on the forefront of fighting terrorists and will continue to play an instrumental role in this regard.

Once again, I met with my friend President Bush and exchanged views with him on several issues of common concern. As usual, our discussions were very friendly. As President Bush just said, we have built a solid partnership that is serving our bilateral interests and the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East. The partnership has matured over the years and endured the test of time. A general sense of continued cooperation and friendship has evolved.

As you know, Egypt took many pioneering steps toward peace in the Middle East. Today, we remain committed to that goal. Our partnership has an indispensable role to play in helping the parties directly involved in the conflict find a just and comprehensive solution.

In this vein, the U.S. has contributed greatly to this cause for the past 25 years. I welcome that the administration will spare no effort in order to help achieve a comprehensive peace. In this context, we look forward to welcoming Vice President Cheney to the area soon and appreciate that the peace process will be one of the issues to be given the merit it deserves.

We must bring about an end to the cycle of violence and other hostile actions and ensure the early resumption of peace negotiations. Nothing can be achieved through violence or resolved through force.

As the Palestinians are being asked to exert more effort to bring down the level of violence, the Israeli Government should understand that the use of military power and unilateral measures against the Palestinian population, the closure of roads, the siege of towns and villages, the demolition of houses, the collective punishment that make progress more difficult, should stop.

The only way out is to put a decisive end to all this suffering, to resume full-fledged peace negotiations immediately, including the implementation of the Tenet plan and the Mitchell recommendations. Peace will only be achieved through ending the Israeli occupation of all territories occupied since June 1967, implementing the relevant U.N.

resolutions, establishing of a viable Palestinian state, and guaranteeing the security of all parts in peaceful coexistence.

For decades, Egypt has been at the forefront of peacemaking and development in our region. Our partnership with the U.S. has played a crucial role in this process. Our comprehensive reform program is now entering a new phase, one that seeks to complete Egypt's integration into the world economy.

At the core of this vision is our quest to deepen our trade ties with all partners, especially the United States. In this context, we have discussed our bilateral relations with a view to intensifying our cooperation in various fields. We agreed to take concrete steps in that direction.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, what——

President Bush. Hold up a second. Please, please, please. I'm going to call on two U.S. reporters; the President will call on two Egyptian reporters. We'll be glad to answer four questions.

I will start by asking AP writer Barry Schweid.

Middle East Peace Initiatives

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, you spoke today, as Secretary Powell has, favorably of the Saudi initiative. Israelis are virtually lining up—Israeli officials—wanting to go to Saudi Arabia to talk about this proposal. But the Saudis apparently are discouraging that. Do you think there should be some preliminary discussions, preliminary searching out of what the proposal means? And does it carry any solid hope, as far as you're concerned, of ending this morass?

President Bush. First of all, I think the Crown Prince's suggestion was a very positive development, and I appreciate those in Israel who are trying to find out exactly what it means.

There has got to be a vision for peace in order for us to head toward peace. And the President of Egypt has talked—made an offer for dialog that will help lead to a peace, hopefully. Crown Prince Abdullah has as well. And our Government supports efforts to create—lay out a vision for a more peaceful tomorrow.

And so I appreciate the efforts of both leaders, and I applaud those efforts of those willing to explore opportunity. But I want to remind everybody that it's going to be difficult to achieve any kind of peace so long as there is a cycle of violence. And one of the things that we talked about is how best we can come together to break the cycle of violence.

There are people in the Middle East that do not want peace. There are people who want to use death to prevent there to be peace discussions. They want to murder innocent lives. I cannot tell you how it breaks my heart to see the weeping moms and those who have lost life, because somebody is preventing peace from—somebody wants to prevent a peace process from beginning.

And so, as the President mentioned, the step is to reduce the cycle of violence and to get into the Tenet security plan as quickly as possible. But I applaud the efforts of these leaders for trying to move the process forward.

Q. I would like the question of both President Mubarak and President Bush. President Bush——

President Bush. It's the old two-question trick. [*Laughter*]

Q. President Bush, now President Mubarak has offered a window of hope, the offer of President Mubarak to host both Prime Minister Sharon and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Sharm el-Sheikh or in Egypt. So what is your response to that offer? Particularly, what can the U.S. do in order to translate that offer, that is likely to break the cycle of violence, into a reality?

And President Mubarak, whether you were satisfied from what you heard from President Bush in your discussions regarding your offer? Thank you.

President Bush. Well, thank you for that question. Let me say, as I mentioned, that I appreciate any efforts, any ideas that will lay out a vision for a peaceful resolution. And the President's offer was a meaningful offer, and we applaud his efforts. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, Egypt has had a—has led the way toward leading the region toward peace, and his offer was indicative of that type of leadership. Crown Prince

Abdullah has laid out an interesting idea. I, myself, at the U.N., talked about a solution.

The key, however, for us to get to the solution is to bust this cycle of violence. And that is where my administration, and I know the President as well, is spending a lot of time and efforts to convince the parties that violence will only lead to heartbreak and will enhance the chances for those who hate the idea of peace to prevail. And those of us who love peace must continue to, as I said, redouble our efforts, which we will.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. I'm satisfied with my discussion with President Bush about the peace process. And we hope we could continue, and the other partners should comply with what we are mentioning.

Something concerning the Crown Prince Abdullah initiative, I would like to say this is the first time in the history of the Saudis that they could say, "We are ready to normalize relations with Israel in case of peace prevails"—the first time in history. We should underline this. Thank you.

Steel Decision

Q. Mr. President, many U.S. allies are threatening retaliation over your steel decision. Are you prepared for a trade war? And why shouldn't this be seen as a tax increase?

President Bush. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], we're a free trading nation, and in order to remain a free trading nation, we must enforce law. And that's exactly what I did. I decided that imports were severely affecting our industry, an important industry—had a negative impact—and therefore, provide temporary relief so that the industry could restructure itself. That's exactly what the World Trade Organization allows for. The International Trade Commission made this recommendation.

As you know, I honored our NAFTA agreements by exempting Canada and Mexico. I also—we will honor our agreements with developing nations. This is a remedy allowed under the WTO. It also is a part of our law, and I intend to enforce our laws.

International Terrorism

Q. My question is addressed for Mr. President Bush and Mr. President Mubarak. As we know, this is your first meeting after 11 September attacks, and Egypt's experience in combating terrorism is worldwide recognized. Did you find a common stand in your talks today to combat this international phenomenon?

President Bush. We did. The President reminded me of the fact that he has been fighting terror long before I became the President. He's an old hand at fighting terror. And I assured him that we were strong allies in this effort.

There are some in the world who don't like President Mubarak because of what he stands for, a more open society. He's been a great leader of Egypt, and there are extremists who don't like him. And to the extent that we can help round up those extremists that would do harm to the President or his government or the people of Egypt, we will do so.

It doesn't matter to me where a terrorist tries to hide. We will work with our friends and allies to hunt them down, and I assured the President that my determination is as strong today as it was on September the 11th. This is an important moment in history, where nations must not flinch in the face of murder and terror and people who are willing to take innocent lives, people who hate free societies.

And I am proud of our alliance, and I appreciate his friendship, and I appreciate his steadfast resolve, as well, to rout out terror wherever it exists.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 5:35 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher of Egypt; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001.

Statement on the Decision To Impose Temporary Safeguards To Help the Domestic Steel Industry

March 5, 2002

Free trade is an important engine of economic growth and a cornerstone of my economic agenda. My administration has successfully launched new global trade talks, reignited the movement for free trade within our own hemisphere, and helped bring China and Taiwan into the World Trade Organization. To open even more markets to American products, I have urged the Senate to grant me the trade promotion authority I need to create jobs and greater opportunities for U.S. workers and farmers.

An integral part of our commitment to free trade is our commitment to enforcing trade laws to make sure that America's industries and workers compete on a level playing field. Free trade should not mean lax enforcement. Consistent with this commitment, last June I launched a three-part initiative designed to restore market forces to world steel markets. This initiative includes international discussion to encourage the reduction of excess global steel capacity and negotiations to eliminate market-distorting subsidies that led to the current glut of capacity. I also called upon the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) to investigate the impact of imports on the U.S. steel industry under section 201 of the 1974 Trade Act. The ITC subsequently found that increased steel imports are a substantial cause of serious injury to our domestic industry.

Today I am announcing my decision to impose temporary safeguards to help give America's steel industry and its workers the chance to adapt to the large influx of foreign steel. This relief will help steelworkers, communities that depend on steel, and the steel industry adjust without harming our economy.

These safeguards are expressly sanctioned by the rules of the World Trade Organization, which recognizes that sometimes imports can cause such serious harm to domestic industries that temporary restraints are warranted. This is one of those times.

I take this action to give our domestic steel industry an opportunity to adjust to surges in foreign imports, recognizing the harm from 50 years of foreign government intervention in the global steel market, which has resulted in bankruptcies, serious dislocation, and job loss. We also must continue to urge our trading partners to eliminate global inefficient excess capacity and market-distorting practices, such as subsidies.

The U.S. steel industry must use the temporary help today's action provides to restructure and ensure its long-term competitiveness. Restructuring will impact workers and the communities in which they live, and we must help hard-working Americans adapt to changing economic circumstances. I have proposed a major expansion of the National Emergency Grants program to assist workers affected by restructuring with effective job training and assistance. I have also proposed direct assistance with health insurance costs that will be available to workers and retirees who lose their employer-provided coverage. And I support coordinated assistance for communities and a strengthened and expanded Trade Adjustment Assistance program. America's workers are the most highly skilled in the world, and with effective training and adjustment assistance we will help them find better, higher paying jobs to support their families and boost our economy.

Proclamation 7529—To Facilitate Positive Adjustment to Competition From Imports of Certain Steel Products

March 5, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On December 19, 2001, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) transmitted to the President a report on its investigation under section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2252), with respect to imports of certain steel products.

2. The ITC reached affirmative determinations under section 202(b) of the Trade Act

that the following products are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat of serious injury, to the domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles: (a) certain carbon flat-rolled steel, including carbon and alloy steel slabs ("slabs"); plate (including cut-to-length plate and clad plate) ("plate"); hot-rolled steel (including plate in coils) ("hot-rolled steel"); cold-rolled steel (other than grain-oriented electrical steel) ("cold-rolled steel"); and corrosion-resistant and other coated steel ("coated steel") (collectively, "certain flat steel"); (b) carbon and alloy hot-rolled bar and light shapes ("hot-rolled bar"); (c) carbon and alloy cold-finished bar ("cold-finished bar"); (d) carbon and alloy rebar ("rebar"); (e) carbon and alloy welded tubular products (other than oil country tubular goods) ("certain tubular products"); (f) carbon and alloy flanges, fittings, and tool joints ("carbon and alloy fittings"); (g) stainless steel bar and light shapes ("stainless steel bar"); and (h) stainless steel rod. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to the determination required under section 202(b) regarding whether (i) carbon and alloy tin mill products ("tin mill products") and (j) stainless steel wire.

3. The ITC provided detailed definitions of the products included in categories (a) through (j) of paragraph 2, and their corresponding subheadings, under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) in Appendix A to its determination, set out at 66 *Fed. Reg.* 67304, 67308–67311 (December 28, 2001). By February 4, 2002, the ITC provided additional information in response to a request by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under section 203(a)(5) of the Trade Act (19 U.S. 2253(a)(5)) (the "supplemental report").

4. Section 330(d)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1330(d)(1)), provides that, when the ITC is required to determine under section 202(b) of the Trade Act whether increased imports of an article are a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, and the commissioners voting are equally divided with respect to such determination, then the determination agreed upon by either group of commissioners may be considered by the President as the determination of the ITC. Having considered the determinations of the commissioners with regard to tin mill products and stainless steel wire, I have decided to consider the determinations of the groups of commissioners voting in the affirmative with regard to each of these products to be the determination of the ITC.

5. Pursuant to section 311(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "NAFTA Implementation Act") (19 U.S.C. 3371(a)), the ITC made findings as to whether imports from Canada and Mexico, considered individually, account for a substantial share of total imports and contribute importantly to the serious injury, or threat thereof, caused by imports. The ITC made negative findings with respect to imports from Canada of certain flat steel, tin mill products, rebar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire; and the ITC also made negative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire. The ITC made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Canada of hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, carbon and alloy fittings, and stainless steel bar; and the ITC also made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of certain flat steel, and carbon and alloy steel fittings. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to imports from Canada of certain tubular products.

6. The ITC commissioners voting in the affirmative under section 202(b) of the Trade Act also transmitted to the President their recommendations made pursuant to section 202(e) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2252(e)) with respect to the actions that, in their view, would address the serious injury, or threat thereof, to the domestic industries and be most effective in facilitating the efforts of those industries to make a positive adjustment to import competition.

7. Pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253), and after taking into account the considerations specified in section 203(a)(2) of the Trade Act and the ITC supplemental report, I have determined to

implement action of a type described in section 203(a)(3) (a "safeguard measure") with regard to the following steel products:

(a) certain flat steel, consisting of: slabs provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.30 through 9903.72.48 in the Annex to this proclamation; plate provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.50 through 9903.72.62 in the Annex to this proclamation; hot-rolled steel provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.65 through 9903.72.82 in the Annex to this proclamation; cold-rolled steel provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.72.85 through 9903.73.04 in the Annex to this proclamation; and coated steel provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.07 through 9903.73.23 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(b) hot-rolled bar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.42 through 9903.73.52 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(c) cold-finished bar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.55 through 9903.73.62 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(d) rebar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.65 through 9903.73.71 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(e) certain tubular products provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.74 through 9903.73.86 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(f) carbon and alloy fittings provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.88 through 9903.73.95 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(g) stainless steel bar provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.97 through 9903.74.06 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(h) stainless steel rod provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.74.08 through 9903.74.16 in the Annex to this proclamation;

(i) tin mill products provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.73.26 through 9903.73.39 in the Annex to this proclamation; and

(j) stainless steel wire provided for in the superior text to subheadings 9903.74.18 through 9903.74.24 in the Annex to this proclamation.

The steel products listed in clauses (i) through (ix) of subdivision (b) of U.S. Note 11 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS ("Note 11") in the Annex to this proclamation were excluded from the determinations of the ITC described in paragraph 2, and are excluded from these safeguard measures. I have also determined to exclude from these safeguard measures the steel products listed in the subsequent clauses of subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation.

8. Pursuant to section 312(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3372(a)), I have determined after considering the report and supplemental report of the ITC that imports from each of Canada and Mexico of certain flat steel, tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire, considered individually, do not account for a substantial share of total imports or do not contribute importantly to the serious injury or threat of serious injury found by the ITC. Accordingly, pursuant to section 312(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3372(b)), I have excluded certain flat steel, tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire the product of Mexico or Canada from the actions I am taking under section 203 of the Trade Act.

9. Pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253), the actions I have determined to take shall be safeguard measures in the form of:

(a) a tariff rate quota on imports of slabs described in paragraph 7, imposed for a period of 3 years plus 1 day, with annual increases in the within-quota quantities and annual reductions in the rates of duty applicable to goods entered in excess of those quantities in the second and third years; and

(b) an increase in duties on imports of certain flat steel, other than slabs (including plate, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel and coated steel), hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain welded tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and

stainless steel wire, as described in paragraph 7, imposed for a period of 3 years plus 1 day, with annual reductions in the rates of duty in the second and third years, as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

10. The safeguard measures described in paragraph 9 shall not apply to the products listed in clauses following clause (ix) in subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation.

11. These safeguard measures shall apply to imports from all countries, except for products of Canada, Israel, Jordan, and Mexico.

12. These safeguard measures shall not apply to imports of any product described in paragraph 7 of a developing country that is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as long as that country's share of total imports of the product, based on imports during a recent representative period, does not exceed 3 percent, provided that imports that are the product of all such countries with less than 3 percent import share collectively account for not more than 9 percent of total imports of the product. If I determine that a surge in imports of a product described in paragraph 7 of a developing country WTO member undermines the effectiveness of the pertinent safeguard measure, the safeguard measure shall be modified to apply to such product from such country.

13. The in-quota quantity in each year under the tariff rate quota described in paragraph 9 shall be allocated among all countries except those countries the products of which are excluded from such tariff rate quota pursuant to paragraphs 11 and 12.

14. Pursuant to section 203(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(1)(A)), I have further determined that these safeguard measures will facilitate efforts by the domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and provide greater economic and social benefits than costs. If I determine that further action is appropriate and feasible to facilitate efforts by the pertinent domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and to provide greater economic and social benefits than costs, or if I determine that the conditions under section 204(b)(1) of the Trade Act are met, I shall reduce, modify, or terminate the action established in this proclamation accordingly. In addition, if I determine within 30 days of the date of this proclamation, as a result of consultations between the United States and other WTO members pursuant to Article 12.3 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards that it is necessary to reduce, modify, or terminate a safeguard measure, I shall proclaim the corresponding reduction, modification, or termination of the safeguard measure within 40 days.

15. Section 604 of the Trade Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections 203 and 604 of the Trade Act, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to establish increases in duty and a tariff rate quota on imports of the certain steel products described in paragraph 7 (other than excluded products), subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation. Any merchandise subject to a safeguard measure that is admitted into U.S. foreign trade zones on or after March 20, 2002, must be admitted as "privileged foreign status" as defined in 19 CFR 146.41, and will be subject upon entry to any quantitative restrictions or tariffs related to the classification under the applicable HTS subheading.

(2) Such imports of certain steel that are the product of Canada, Israel, Jordan, or Mexico shall be excluded from the safeguard measures established by this proclamation, and such imports shall not be counted toward the tariff rate quota limits that trigger the over-quota rates of duty.

(3) Except as provided in clause (4) below, imports of certain steel that are the product of WTO member developing countries, as provided in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11 in

the Annex to this proclamation, shall be excluded from the safeguard measures established by this proclamation, and such imports shall not be counted toward the tariff rate quota limits that trigger the over-quota rates of duties.

(4) Clause (3) above shall not apply to imports of a product that is the product of a country listed in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation if subdivision (d)(ii) of such Note indicates that such country's share of total imports of the product exceeds 3 percent, or that imports of the product from all listed countries with less than 3 percent import share collectively account for more than 9 percent of total imports of the product. The USTR is authorized to determine whether a surge in imports of a product that is the product of a country listed in subdivision (d)(i) undermines the effectiveness of the pertinent safeguard measure and, if so, upon publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, to revise subdivision (d) of Note 11 in the Annex to this proclamation to indicate that such product from such country is not excluded from such safeguard measure.

(5) Within 120 days after the date of this proclamation, the USTR is authorized to further consider any request for exclusion of a particular product submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001) and, upon publication in the *Federal Register* of a notice of his finding that a particular product should be excluded, to modify the HTS provisions created by the Annex to this proclamation to exclude such particular product from the pertinent safeguard measure established by this proclamation.

(6) In March of each year in which any safeguard measure established by this proclamation remains in effect, the USTR is authorized, upon publication in the *Federal Register* of a notice of his finding that a particular product should be excluded, to modify the HTS provisions created by the Annex to this proclamation to exclude such particular product from the pertinent safeguard measure established by this proclamation.

(7) Any provision of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that is inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation is superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(8) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation, including the Annex hereto, shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m., EST, on March 20, 2002, and shall continue in effect as provided in the Annex to this proclamation, unless such actions are earlier expressly reduced, modified, or terminated. Effective at the close of March 21, 2006, or such other date that is 1 year from the close of the safeguard measures established in this proclamation, the U.S. note and tariff provisions established in the Annex to this proclamation shall be deleted from the HTS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., March 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 7.

Memorandum on Action Under Section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 Concerning Certain Steel Products

March 5, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, United States Trade Representative

Subject: Action Under Section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 Concerning Certain Steel Products

On December 19, 2001, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) submitted a report to me that contained determinations pursuant to section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act"), that (a) certain carbon flat rolled steel, including carbon and alloy steel slabs, plate (including cut-to-length plate and clad plate), hot-rolled steel (including plate in coils), cold-rolled steel (other than grain-oriented electrical steel), and corrosion-resistant and

other coated steel (collectively, "certain flat steel"); (b) carbon and alloy hot-rolled bar and light shapes ("hot-rolled bar"); (c) carbon and alloy cold-finished bar ("cold-finished bar"); (d) carbon and alloy rebar ("rebar"); (e) carbon and alloy welded tubular products (other than oil country tubular goods) ("certain tubular products"); (f) carbon and alloy flanges, fittings, and tool joints ("carbon and alloy fittings"); (g) stainless steel bar and light shapes ("stainless steel bar"); and (h) stainless steel rod are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to the determination required under section 202(b) regarding whether (i) carbon and alloy tin mill products ("tin mill products"); (j) stainless steel wire; (k) tool steel, all forms; and (l) stainless steel flanges and fittings ("stainless steel fittings") are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat of serious injury, to the domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles. The ITC provided detailed definitions of the products included in categories (a) through (l) and their corresponding subheadings under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) in Appendix A to its determination, set out at 66 *Fed. Reg.* 67304, 67308–67311 (December 28, 2001).

The report of the ITC also contained findings pursuant to section 311(a) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "NAFTA Implementation Act") as to whether imports from Canada and Mexico, considered individually, account for a substantial share of total imports and contribute importantly to the serious injury, or threat thereof, caused by imports. The ITC made negative findings with respect to imports from Canada of certain flat steel, tin mill products, rebar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire; and also made negative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, and stainless steel wire. The ITC made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Canada of hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, carbon and alloy fittings, and stainless steel bar; and also made affirmative findings with respect to imports from Mexico of certain flat steel, and carbon and alloy steel fittings. The ITC commissioners were equally divided with respect to imports from Canada of certain tubular products. By February 4, 2002, the ITC provided additional information in response to a request under section 203(a)(5) of the Trade Act ("supplemental report") made by the United States Trade Representative (the "USTR") on January 3, 2002.

Having considered the determinations of both groups of commissioners with regard to tin mill products, tool steel, stainless steel wire, and stainless steel fittings, I have determined, pursuant to section 330(d)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, to consider the determinations of the groups of commissioners voting in the affirmative with regard to tin mill products and stainless steel wire to be the determination of the ITC, and the determinations of the groups of commissioners voting in the negative with regard to tool steel and stainless steel fittings to be the determination of the ITC.

By Proclamation signed today (the "Proclamation") and after considering all relevant aspects of the investigation, including the factors set forth in section 203(a)(2) of the Trade Act and the supplemental report, I have implemented actions of a type described in section 203(a)(3). I have determined that the most appropriate actions are safeguard measures in the form of an increase in duties on imports of certain flat steel, other than slabs (including plate, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel, and coated steel), hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain welded tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and stainless steel wire, as defined in paragraph 7 of the Proclamation, and in the form of a tariff rate quota (TRQ) on imports of slabs, with an increase in currently scheduled rates of duties for imports over the TRQ limits. I have implemented these safeguard measures for a period of 3 years plus 1 day.

Specifically, I have established the following safeguard measures:

(a) certain flat steel: with regard to slabs, a TRQ of 4.90 million metric tons in the first year of the measure, 5.35 million metric tons in the second year, and 5.81 million metric tons in the third year, with no increase in duties for imports below the within-quota level and an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* for imports above the within-quota level in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year; and with regard to certain flat steel, other than slab (including plate, hot-rolled steel, cold-rolled steel and coated steel), an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year;

(b) hot-rolled bar: an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year;

(c) cold-finished bar: a increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year;

(d) rebar: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;

(e) certain welded tubular products: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;

(f) carbon and alloy fittings: an increase in duties of 13% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 10% in the second year, and 7% in the third year;

(g) stainless steel bar: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;

(h) stainless steel rod: an increase in duties of 15% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 12% in the second year, and 9% in the third year;

(i) tin mill products: an increase in duties of 30% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 24% in the second year, and 18% in the third year; and

(j) stainless steel wire: an increase in duties of 8% *ad valorem* in the first year of the measure, 7% in the second year, and 6% in the third year.

Pursuant to section 312(a) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, after consideration of the report and supplemental reports of the ITC, I further determine that imports of certain flat steel, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and stainless steel wire that are products of Canada and Mexico either do not account for a substantial share of total imports of these products, or are not contributing importantly to serious injury or the threat of serious injury. Therefore, pursuant to section 312(b) of the NAFTA Implementation Act, the safeguard measure will not apply to imports of certain flat steel, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, tin mill products, and stainless steel wire that are the product of Canada or Mexico. Similarly, the safeguard measures will not apply to imports of these products that are the product of Israel or Jordan.

The safeguard measures also will not apply to imports of certain flat steel, tin mill products, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, rebar, certain tubular products, carbon and alloy fittings, stainless steel bar, stainless steel rod, or stainless steel wire that are the product of a developing country that is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as long as that country's share of imports into the United States of the product, based on a recent representative period, does not exceed 3 percent, provided that all such developing country WTO members collectively account for not more than 9 percent of total imports of that product. For purposes of the safeguard measures established under the Proclamation, I determine that the beneficiary countries under the Generalized System of Preferences are developing countries. Subdivision (d)(i) of U.S. Note 11 to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (Note 11) in the Annex to the Proclamation identifies those developing countries that are WTO members, and subdivision (d)(ii) identifies

the products of such countries to which the safeguard measures shall not apply.

I instruct the USTR to review data on imports of products listed in paragraph 7 of the Proclamation from countries listed in subdivision (d)(i) of Note 11 on a quarterly basis. If imports of such a product from such a country increase by a material amount, I instruct the USTR to initiate consultations with the country regarding the circumstances under which the increase occurred and whether the country plans to take action to reduce imports to historical levels. If, on the basis of the information exchanged during consultations, data on imports, domestic steel demand, growth in the U.S. economy, shifts in other countries' trade patterns, and any other relevant factors, the USTR determines that the increase in imports of such product from such country undermines the effectiveness of the pertinent safeguard measure, he is authorized, upon publication of a notice of such determination in the *Federal Register*, to modify subdivision (d)(ii) of Note 11 in the Annex to the Proclamation to include such product from such country. I also authorize the USTR, upon publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*, to change the list of developing countries to which the safeguard measures do not apply.

The steel products listed in clauses (i) through (ix) of subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to the Proclamation were excluded from the determinations of the ITC described in paragraph 2 of that Proclamation, and are excluded from these safeguard measures. I have also determined to exclude from these safeguard measures the steel products listed in the subsequent clauses of subdivision (b) of Note 11 in the Annex to the Proclamation. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is currently evaluating requests, submitted in response to 66 *Fed. Reg.* 54321, 54322–54323 (October 26, 2001), that particular products be excluded from any safeguard measure with regard to certain steel products. I instruct the USTR to determine whether these particular products should be excluded and, if so, within 120 days of the date of the Proclamation, to publish in the *Federal Register* a notice to modify subchapter III of chapter 99 to exclude them from the safeguard measures. In making this determination, the USTR shall consider any advice rendered by the TPSC.

Similarly, I instruct the USTR, after receiving advice from the TPSC, to determine whether any particular products should be added to the list of those excluded from the safeguard measures and, if so, to publish a notice in the *Federal Register* in March of any year in which he receives such a recommendation to modify subchapter III of chapter 99 to exclude such particular products from the measures. I further instruct the USTR, no later than 90 days from today, to publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of the procedures by which interested persons may request the TPSC to recommend whether to exclude a particular product.

I also instruct the USTR, prior to the effective date of the safeguard measures established in the Proclamation, to conduct consultations under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards with any WTO member having a substantial interest as an exporter of a product subject to such safeguard measures, provided that the WTO member requests such consultations in a timely fashion. I instruct the USTR to report to me on the results of such consultations. I instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to section 505(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1505(a)), to prescribe by regulation a date no later than 45 days after today at which estimated duties for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m., EST, March 20, 2002, and up to the 30th day after today, shall be deposited.

I instruct the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce to establish a system of import licensing to facilitate the monitoring of imports of certain steel products. Pursuant to the authority granted me by section 203(g) of the Trade Act to provide for the efficient and fair administration of all actions taken for the purpose of providing import relief under section 203, I further instruct the Secretary of Commerce, within 120 days of the effective date of the safeguard measures established by the Proclamation, to publish regulations in the *Federal Register* establishing such a system of import licensing.

I have determined that the safeguard measures will facilitate efforts by the domestic industries to make a positive adjustment to import competition and will provide greater economic and social benefits than costs. If I determine that further action is appropriate and feasible to facilitate efforts by the pertinent domestic industry to make a positive adjustment to import competition and to provide greater economic and social benefits than costs, or if I determine that the conditions under section 204(b)(1) of the Trade Act are met, I shall reduce, modify, or terminate the safeguard measures. In making this determination, I shall consider the pertinent factors set out in section 203(a)(2) of the Trade Act and, in particular, changes in capital and labor productivity in the domestic industries; actual and planned permanent closures of inefficient steel production facilities in the United States and in other countries; consolidation of United States steel producers; capital expenditures in the domestic industries; prices for certain steel products in the United States; and the overall effect that maintaining the measure will have on consuming industries, workers, and the United States economy as a whole.

The United States Trade Representative is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., March 6, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 7.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Documents Describing the Safeguard Action on Imports of Certain Steel Products

March 5, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 203(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby transmit documents to the Congress that describe the safeguard action that I have proclaimed on imports of certain steel products, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 203(a)(1) of the Act and as President of the United States, and the reasons for taking that action.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 5, 2002.

Remarks During a Meeting With Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., and an Exchange With Reporters

March 6, 2002

The President. I nominated a very good man from Mississippi named Charles Pickering to the appellate bench, and I expect him to be confirmed by the United States Senate. I think the country is tired of people playing politics all the time in Washington. And I believe that they're holding this man's nomination up for political purposes. It's not fair, and it's not right.

And a lot of people in Mississippi agree with me. Republicans agree with me, but so do a lot of good Democrats, starting with the attorney general of the State of Mississippi. He is here to lend his support for Charles Pickering. As well, the former Governor, Governor Winter, has expressed concern about a process that would malign a man such as him and expects him to be confirmed. Frank Hunger feels the same way. These are people in Mississippi who know the man for what he is, a man who respects the rights of all citizens and a man who not only respects the rights of all citizens, who has acted on that strong belief, a man who's a fine jurist, a man of quality and integrity.

And I hope the Senate stops playing politics. This is not good for the Senate, and it's not good for the country. They've got to get him on the floor and get him a vote and get him in. He'll do a fine job.

Judge Pickering's Nomination

Q. Can we ask you a couple questions about his nomination, sir?

The President. Go ahead.

Q. Do you agree with your Press Secretary that if the judge's writings and actions of 30—20, 30, 40 years ago should come into play, then so should the civil rights record of some of the very Senators of 30, 40 years ago? And is that a threat?

The President. Here's what I believe: I believe this man should be confirmed. I know him—I've known him for a long time. But more importantly, people from Mississippi have known him. Democrats and Republicans know him. And he needs to be confirmed, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. This is a good, good, honorable citizen, and they're playing politics with him up there.

Q. Did you support in 1950——

The President. Hold on——

Q. Mr. President, you describe this as playing politics. But many Democrats believe there are serious civil rights issues involved; among them that when he was a member of the State Senate, Mr. Pickering voted twice to support the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, which was a segregationist spy agency recognized by the State.

The President. All the allegations have been laid out. He has been confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate in the past. This is a good, honorable man who should be approved by the United States Senate. Otherwise we wouldn't have a Democrat attorney general, a very popular former Governor, Al Gore's brother-in-law, all of whom have stood up and said, the man needs to be confirmed.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mike Moore, State attorney general, and former Gov. William Winter of Mississippi; and Frank W. Hunger, former Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, and brother-in-law of former Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. Judge Pickering's nomination to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit was submitted May 25, 2001.

Remarks to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

March 6, 2002

Hector, thank you. One of the best decisions I made was, I asked you to come and be the SBA Director. And he's doing a fine job. One of the reasons I asked Hector is because he understands that the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which entrepreneurs from all walks of life have a chance to succeed.

I'll never forget going to the Hispanic Chamber banquet in California, and I was given the information about the number of Latino-owned small businesses in the State of California. It was a staggering number, and I can remember telling friends of mine in Texas and other States what a magnificent statistic it is, to be able to read about the thousands of businesses started by Latinos, which means the American Dream is spreading her wings in every single neighborhood, which is precisely the vision I have for America. I want everybody who wants to start their own business to feel comfortable in doing so and have an opportunity to succeed in America. And Hector understands that.

I want to thank you all to the *Casa Blanca tambien*. I want to thank Fidel Vargas for being here. He's on the Social Security Commission; I put two Latinos on the Social Security Commission. The Social Security Commission spent a lot of time analyzing the Social Security System and came back with a solid recommendation of allowing younger workers, if they so choose, to have their own money invested in a personal savings account.

Again, I can't think of anything better for the future of our country than for people to own a piece of the future of America. After all, it is not the Government's money we're talking about; it is the workers' money. And I want to thank the hard work of Fidel *y los otros* and the Commission of the Social Security.

I want to thank George Herrera, the president of the Chamber, *el Presidente*. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Liz as well for being here, *y tambien mi abogado*. Al has been my lawyer since when I was the Governor. He's been *mi abogado cuando estoy el presidente*, and his advice has always been sound. He's really a smart guy and a very close friend.

And finally, I want to recognize Miguel Estrada. Miguel. Miguel is a really bright attorney who I've named to the U.S.—nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals, DC Circuit. They're playing too much politics in the United States Senate on our judge nominees. This man deserves a hearing, and he deserves

a vote. This is a good, solid jurist who ought to be on that bench. And I'm calling on the United States Senate to move quickly on Miguel's nomination so that we can have a good, young Latino, smart, brilliant man represent our Nation. Thank you for being here, Miguel.

I first want to tell you that this is an incredible time for our country, and I want to assure you all, as leaders in your communities and moms and dads and as concerned citizens, that our Nation is doing everything we can to protect America, that we've got a homeland security strategy that is working with first-responders and bioterrorism, that we want to modernize our borders. We want to make sure we do everything to protect the American people, and we are.

But you've also got to understand my view, and it's this: that the best way to protect the American people is to find a terrorist wherever they hide and bring them to justice. You know, when this first got started, I told the American people that we would be in for a long and difficult struggle. And after nearly 6 months, the American people still understand that—that in order to fight for freedom, in order to win for freedom, we've got to be determined and strong and not relent. History has called this great Nation into action, and so long as I'm the President, I will pursue the opportunity to protect freedom, any time, anywhere.

And as you know, I've laid out a doctrine that said if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and that's what the Taliban found out. And I like to remind my fellow Americans, not only am I proud of how our United States military has performed, that our military were not conquerors, they were liberators. We freed women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our troops.

And obviously, there is still work to be done in the first theater in the war against terror. This is a—I told people, and I've been saying this for a long time, and I will continue to say so—Afghanistan is still a dangerous place. There are still people in Afghanistan who either want to disrupt the Karzai interim Government, want to make sure—or try to cause Afghanistan to revert back to being a sanctuary for murderers and terrorists, so they can do one thing, and that is attack us again. And so as you know, our military, combined with the military of our friends and allies, including the Afghans, are still on the hunt.

And we encountered a large group of Al Qaida-type terrorists, and we're bringing them to justice. There's a fierce battle waging, and it's—but we're winning that battle. I'm so sad we lose life. My heart breaks when I think about the moms and dads or wives or children of those who have lost their life. But we defend freedom, and we're fighting for freedom, and we must continue to fight for freedom. And so where we find these killers, we'll bring them to justice.

This Nation is determined; we're united; we are patient; and we're resolved to defend the values we hold dear to our hearts. And that's the way it's going to be, so long as I'm the President of the United States.

I also want you to know we've got a lot of work to do at home. I was really proud earlier this year to travel the country touting the fact that I signed a significant piece of education legislation. It was a landmark piece of legislation. I don't remember the exact words I said when I spoke to the Hispanic Chamber in California in one of my first speeches, but I can assure you I talked about education because it is a passion of mine, and it was a passion of not only mine but of both Republicans and Democrats. I got a good bill on my desk because both people—leaders in both parties decided that there's something more important than political party in America, and that's the education of our children.

This is a really good piece of legislation because, first and foremost, it sets high standards and high expectations for every child, *por todos*. It refuses to accept a system that quits on children early. As you know, in some neighborhoods in America, it's so much easier just to move the kids through, so much easier to say, "You know, a Latino child can't read very well because his or her parents may not speak English, so let's just move them through the system." Those days have got to end if we want the American Dream to extend to all neighborhoods.

And so I signed a bill that says we're going to measure for every child. We want to know if every child can read or write and add and subtract. And if not, we'll correct the problems early, before it's too late. Every child matters in America, and no child will be left behind.

We put significant resources into Title I programs. But for money, we want results. We want to—because, you see, I believe every child can learn. I don't accept excuses that say certain children can't learn. Every child in America can learn.

Now, we also have passed power out of Washington, DC. I don't believe all the wisdom in the world exists in Washington. As a matter of fact, I think by empowering teachers and principals and parents and school districts, we're more likely to achieve a common objective, which is high standards for every single child.

I also have unleashed a reading initiative that I truly believe is going to change America for the better. I like to say reading is the new civil right. If you can't read, it's hard to understand other subjects; it's hard to excel; it's hard to be part of this fantastic future we have. And so we've spent a billion dollars on reading.

And I want to assure you that the reading programs are going to be aimed toward teaching that which works, not that which sounds good. There is a science to reading. We've got some of the best scientists in the world now analyzing what works for all kids. And so rather than just spending money, we're going to make sure we spend money on what works. And you mark my words, as we stay focused and energized on this important subject, more and more children will read. And as more and more children will read, more and more children will realize the fantastic future in America. And so I'm proud of this piece of work we've done.

I also want to thank you all for supporting tax relief. We cut taxes at exactly the right time. In order to encourage the economy to grow, it was very wise to give—let people keep their own money. Some up here don't understand that. They're reading the wrong textbook. You hear talk about making sure the tax relief doesn't continue. It's like raising taxes. You don't do that when times are slow; you encourage the vitality of the private sector by letting people keep their own money.

And not only that, I heard from many of you all about the unfairness of the death tax. And we've now put the death tax on its way to extinction. It's so important for people to be able to build up their own assets and their own businesses and have the capacity to pass that on to whoever they choose, a son or a daughter, without the Government getting in between the entrepreneur and the family member.

So we're making good progress. I think the economy is still—has still got problems. But we put the right fiscal policy in place. I still think we ought to do more. We ought to not only take care of those who have been unemployed because of 9/11; we ought to help them with their unemployment benefits as well as their health benefits. But I like to tell people Americans don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck.

And there needs to be a stimulus bill. The House passed a good bill. Part of it was a small business incentive bill, recognizing that the small businesses create more new jobs in America than any other sector of our economy.

I want to continue to push for trade. I believe trade makes sense. Yesterday I made a tough decision on steel. But I will tell you, in order to be a free trade advocate, in order to be consistent on free trade, we better make sure we enforce the laws on our books. The two go hand in hand, free trade and fair trade. And so I obviously put a temporary plan in place to allow the steel industry to restructure. But I also want to remind you all I honored the agreement of NAFTA, so that Mexico and Canada are exempt.

And let me talk about Mexico right quick. My attitude toward Mexico is that I want Mexico to succeed. I want our neighbors to be successful. The best kind of neighborhood to live in is one where everybody is successful, and so our public policy ought to recognize Mexico as an incredibly important part of the American future. And therefore, I look forward to working with *el Presidente* Fox on how best to make sure our relationship is strong.

One thing we can do is doing what we're doing, which is encourage our economy to grow and to recover. That will help Mexico. But the other thing is to honor NAFTA, which I have done as the President. I did so in the steel decision yesterday. I will continue to do so because I believe NAFTA is not only good for Mexico; as importantly, it is good for American workers as well.

I believe—and I know we've made great progress. We've got a spirit of *amistad*. We've got a relationship that is open and strong. I told the Congress that I want to make sure that the Mexican citizen here is well respected, and we will. We respect people in our country. And one way to do that is to pass 245(i), which will allow for families to be reunited. If you believe in family values, if you understand the worth of family and the importance of family, let's get 245(i) out of the United States Congress and give me a chance to sign it.

I also want to talk about energy. Energy is incredibly vital for our economic vitality. And you've got to understand, as the President, somebody who's concerned about our national security as well, the fact that we import over 50 percent of our energy from around the world is an indication that we're not as strong from a national security perspective as we could be or should be. And so we need to have an energy plan, one that, on the one hand, encourages conservation and the modernization of our infrastructure, electricity infrastructure, but we've also got to explore for more energy. And we can do so in an environmentally friendly way, starting in Alaska, where there's a lot of oil and gas.

Those of you in California know full well that we had a little scare out there about a year—less than a year ago. And the State has responded by building more powerplants to increase the supply of energy, and that's good. Except what's interesting is, those plants are powered by natural gas. And the fundamental question is, where is that gas going to come from in the long term? We ought to be exploring for more natural gas, and a good place to start is Alaska.

I want you to know that Mexico imports gas from the United States. In other words—and it's a hemispheric issue, and we've got to think long-term on behalf of the American citizens. And so I put out a comprehensive energy plan. It passed the House of Representatives; it needs to get out of the Senate and get to my desk, for the good of the national security of the country as well as for the good for jobs.

As you may know, I'm headed down to Mexico for my second visit since I've been the President, to Mexico. There's going to be a conference on development. I look forward to participating in that. I will proudly remind people that we are the most generous Nation in the world when it comes to helping developing nations.

I don't know if you know this—just for example, I was recently, as you know, in the Far East. And I reminded the people out there that we provide 300,000 tons of food to North Korean citizens. I'm not so sure the President or the head of North Korea gives us any credit for having provided the food, but we're a compassionate nation, and we should be proud of our record on helping people.

I then go to Peru, and I look forward to working with the Andean nations not only on issues of trade but on the cultivation of coca leaves for drugs. But I'll also remind them that so long as there's a demand for drugs, somebody's going to supply them. And it's a two-way street; that, one, we'll help reduce supply, but we in our Nation have an obligation to work with our young to reduce the demand. We must tell them clearly that drugs can ruin their life. We must educate the youth about the dangers of drug use. We must reduce demand if we expect our neighborhood to help clean up drugs.

And then I'm going to El Salvador to meet with the Central American nations. We've got the beginnings of a free trade pact with them. President Flores is going to be the host, a remarkable young leader. Like Peru and Mexico, these are strong democracies; they're continuing to reform their process. It's important for me to herald the fact that they are embracing democratic institutions which make their country so much stronger and so much more vibrant. So I'm really looking forward to spending time in the neighborhood.

I believe the best foreign policy begins in making sure your own neighborhood is free and democratic and peaceful. So I'm looking forward to spending time there as well.

You know, I like to remind people that I truly believe that out of this evil that was done on us on September the 11th will come some great good. I believe that. I believe if we stay the course and are strong and determined, and if the Congress passes the Defense budget I sent up there, which prioritizes national defense to make sure our military gets all the best equipment and best training possible, that we'll have the staying power to make the world more peaceful. And I believe it will be if we're strong, and we will be strong.

I also know that at home that people are taking an assessment of what's important in life. And I believe as a result of that, some positive things will happen. I think the culture can begin to change from one that has said in the past, if it feels good, go ahead and do it, to a culture that says, each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—the responsibility era, where moms and dads are responsible for loving their children.

The most important job any American will ever have, if you're fortunate enough to have a child, is to love your child. But it goes beyond that, where neighbors will love neighbors. I tell my fellow citizens that if you're interested in fighting—joining the war against terror, do some good. I mean, if you really want to stand squarely in the face of evil, help a neighbor in need, mentor a child, help a shut-in, you know, support your schools, give to charity, help to start a faith-based group that will help change people's hearts.

It's this—it's the collection of the kindness of America. It's the collection of all the acts of kindness that take place which not only define our Nation but will stand squarely in the face of evil. And it's happening, and I'm so proud of the way the American people have responded. Many in this room have as well, and I want to thank you for that.

I do believe that America understands there's a new responsibility, that this is a new era, that, on the one hand, we've got to be diligent and alert, and on the other hand, we can make a difference in people's lives. After all, it was Flight 93 that set a new tone for America. People on an airline thought they were going on a business trip or thought they were going home. They heard the Nation's Capital was under attack. They got on their telephones. They told their wives they loved them. They said a prayer, and they sacrificed their life to save somebody else's.

To me, that's one of the most defining events of September 11th and on. It shows me what a great nation we have. It reminds me of the character of the American people. And that's why we're so unique, not because of our Government but because of our people.

Thank you for coming to Washington, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, chair, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales; Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan; General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10); and section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, whose provisions expired April 30, 2001.

Statement on Proposed Legislation To Provide Protections Against Genetic Discrimination

March 6, 2002

I applaud Senators Snowe, Frist, and Jeffords for introducing their bill today to prohibit discrimination in health insurance and employment based solely on an individual's genetic predisposition to a future disease. The bill provides strong protections against genetic discrimination that are fair, reasonable, and consistent with existing laws. I look forward to working with Congress in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation to assure

Americans the privacy of their genetic information will be protected and never used to deny health coverage or jobs.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1995, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2002."

Proclamation 7530—Women's History Month, 2002

March 6, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Women's History Month provides our country the privilege of honoring the countless contributions that American women have made throughout our history. These contributions have enriched our culture, strengthened our Nation, and furthered the Founders' vision for a free and just Republic that provides opportunity and safety at home and is an influence for peace around the world.

Since its beginnings, our land has been blessed by noteworthy women who played defining roles in shaping our Nation. Sakajawea was a Native American woman who befriended the explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, 150 years ago as they crossed the great Northwest. She helped Lewis and Clark's expedition complete the first successful overland transcontinental journey. Lucretia Mott courageously wrote and spoke against slavery and the lack of equal rights for women, helping America recognize the inherent wrong in the institutional subjugation of others and the need to strive for equality, freedom, and justice for all. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman in America awarded a medical degree, and she dedicated her pioneering efforts as a physician to helping others.

Helen Keller overcame debilitating physical disabilities, showing us the power of a determined human spirit. And Clara Barton developed a vision for helping others through her service to the wounded during the Civil War; and she realized that vision by founding the American Red Cross after the war, an organization that has since become renowned for its effectiveness in helping those who suffer or are in need. Recently, the Red Cross reached out to aid Afghan women traumatized by the repressive rule of the intolerant Taliban regime, which for years had mercilessly oppressed Afghanistan and Afghan women in particular. Today, thousands of American women are furthering the cause of freedom through service in government, the military, and other organizations, as we seek to defeat terrorism and bring justice to those responsible for the September 11 attacks.

The history of American women is an expansive story of outstanding individuals who sacrificed much and worked hard in pursuit of a better world, where peace, dignity, and opportunity can reign. The spirit of loving determination that shaped these pursuits continues to serve as an example to those who seek to better our Nation. American women of strength, vision, and character have long influenced our country by contributing their time, efforts, and wisdom in vastly diverse ways to improve and enhance our government and communities, our schools and religious institutions, our businesses and the military, and the arts and sciences. Women also have fundamentally shaped our civilization in the care and nurturing of families. Today, women in contemporary America are furthering the Founders' vision by working to advance freedom, increase equality, and administer justice in every corner of our land, through their everyday work in schoolrooms, boardrooms, courtrooms, homes, and communities.

As President, I am proud to recognize the many contributions American women have made to help make our Nation free, strong, and a force for peace and justice around the world. On this observance of Women's History Month, I encourage every American to learn more about these important contributions, and to celebrate their noble legacies as we work to build a brighter future for our Nation and for all of the world's people.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2002 as Women's History Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this

month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 7, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Remarks at the Presentation of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

March 7, 2002

Thank you, Secretary Evans, and thank you all very much. It's an honor to be back here. It's a pleasure to see so many students here today. I understand some of you took a tour of the White House. You must have behaved well, because I didn't hear the dogs barking. [*Laughter*] I hope you enjoyed being there as much as Laura and I enjoy being there. It's a fabulous place, the White House is. I'm so glad you were able to see it.

I'm also pleased to be back to congratulate the award winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. I'm really pleased that school districts have been added. I want to commend the Baldrige Committee for including education. Secretary Rod Paige is here. Both of us believe so strongly that no child should be left behind. Both of us know the potential of the public school systems in America, and we want to thank and congratulate the school districts here that have set the highest of high standards not only at the secondary level but also at the high level of education.

I was privileged to know Malcolm Baldrige. He was one of America's most distinguished Secretaries of Commerce, and what a fine and honorable man he was. The award that bears his name reflects the virtues that he brought to public service and how he lived in his private life, a commitment to excellence, shrewd judgment and sound judgment, principled leadership, integrity, and a sense of responsibility.

Today's honorees have met a rigorous test, and such a worthy example for others. And I know Malcolm would have approved of the winners.

It's a great honor to be with Midge Baldrige again—you're looking pretty darn good these days—[*laughter*]—and Letitia Baldrige as well. I know we've got some Members of the United States Congress here. I think Bill Jenkins from Tennessee is here. I know Connie Morella is here. Thank you for coming, Connie. I also appreciate Nancy Murkowski, the wife of Frank Murkowski. Nancy is committed to quality education in the State of Alaska, and I know you're as proud as I am for the winners who are here. And I always want to thank the U.S. Army Band for providing such wonderful music.

I appreciate the fact that prior winners of the Baldrige Award are here. I think it's important for you to stay involved in the process. As you heard, some of the recipients also appreciate of you being here. And I want to welcome five more organizations to your ranks, the school districts, the University of Wisconsin-Stout, as well as the fine symbols of entrepreneurial spirit in America, Pal's Sudden Service of Tennessee, and of course, Clarke American Checks, represented by some rowdy Texans.

This is a high, high honor. I know you all understand what a big deal this is, having gone through the process. It is an important award, and I congratulate you all so very much. The award goes to organizations rather than any single individual, and that's important to note. As we've seen today, success happens in an atmosphere of teamwork, common values, and trust.

An organization needs a good idea and a good product or a good service. It certainly needs a good strategic plan. But more than anything, it needs good people, men and women of integrity who understand their duties to each other and to the public interest.

And this is true throughout our entire economy. The free enterprise system draws upon the best in people, creativity, ingenuity, energy, a desire to make life better for ourselves and for others. The whole design of

free market capitalism depends upon free people acting responsibly. Business people must answer not just to the demands of the market or self-interest but to the demands of conscience.

The bottom line of the balance sheet defines a business' goal but not the sum of responsibilities of its leaders. Management should respect workers. A firm should be loyal to the community, mindful of the environment.

In America, by far—by far—most businesses fulfill their responsibilities. They do not cut ethical corners or neglect workers or disregard community standards. A good business finds opportunities and makes the most of them, and a good business always respects the boundaries of right and wrong.

In our country, the law defines many of these responsibilities, from workplace safety to environmental protection. For publicly held corporations the law goes further, defining standards of disclosure with independent certification by auditing firms.

We have seen lately just how important these standards are and the harm that can follow when they are ignored. Exactly where the blame lies may take a long time to determine, and legal judgments are for regulators and for courts. But this much is clear: To properly inform shareholders and the investing public, we must adopt better standards of disclosure and accounting practices for all of corporate America.

The reason that a single bankruptcy can cause so much concern in America is that more Americans than ever have invested their money in public corporations. Today, about 80 million Americans own stock, either individually or through their pension plans. This is one of the causes for the expansion in personal wealth over the past 20 years. This has been an incredibly positive development for America. Stock ownership allows citizens from all walks of life to own a part of the economy and to share in its growth. The people who run public companies owe a special obligation to these investors, many of whom have put their savings and future security on the line.

Corporate officers must perform their duty in good faith to the best of their abilities. They must disclose relevant facts to the investing public, and they must focus on the interests of shareholders, who are the real owners of any publicly held enterprise.

I recognize that the basic rules of corporate law are made by the States, and that's as it should be. But Washington has responsibilities as well. The buying and selling of publicly held shares is regulated by the Federal Government. And today I call upon the Securities and Exchange Commission to take action. Existing regulations should be clearer. Penalties for wrongdoing should be tougher. Reform should improve investor confidence and help our economy to flourish and grow.

It is important to provide sound regulation and remedies where needed, without inviting a rush of new lawsuits that exploit problems instead of solving them. Our goal is better rules so that conflict, suspicion, and broken faith can be avoided in the first place.

Reform should begin with accountability, and reform should start at the top. The chief executive officer has a daily duty to oversee the entire enterprise, the entire firm, and therefore, bears a unique responsibility for serving shareholder interests. Currently, a CEO signs a nominal certification of annual financial statements and does so merely in his capacity on behalf of the company. In the future, the CEO's signature should also be his personal certification, vouching for the veracity and fairness of the financial disclosures. When he signs a statement, he's giving his word and should stand behind it.

Oftentimes businesses base executive bonuses on financial statements. If, however, a financial statement turns out to be grossly inaccurate or the result of serious misconduct, those bonuses should be returned to the company's treasury on behalf of it's shareholders.

Corporate officers should not be allowed to secretly trade their company's stock. Every time they buy or sell, they should be required to tell the public within 2 days. The Securities and Exchange Commission should be able to punish corporate leaders who clearly abuse their powers, by banning them from ever serving again as officers or directors of publicly held corporations.

We must also do more to safeguard the rights of investors. America has the best system of corporate disclosure. Yet, the interests

of the average investor are sometimes overlooked, especially the need for thorough and timely information about firm performance. And some corporations have used artful and intricate financial arrangements to hide the true risks of the investment.

We need to get back to basic capitalism. In a system based on the willingness to take risks, investors need to know the true nature of the risks. The investor has the right to a true and fair picture of assets, liabilities, and income. Management has a good-faith obligation to provide that information, attracting investment by building on strengths, not by clever concealment of weaknesses.

And to further ensure that information is reliable, we will need reforms within the accounting profession. Auditors are a critical external check on management, and we must ensure that the integrity of their work is never compromised. Accounting is one of the most basic and one of the most respected professions in our country, and it can help protect its own integrity by developing and enforcing clearer standards of conduct.

The profession also needs an independent regulatory board to hold accounting firms to the highest ethical standards. And the SEC should exercise more effective and broad oversight of accounting standards. The SEC should also do more to guard against conflicts of interest, requiring, for example, that an external auditor not be permitted to provide internal audits to the same client.

And finally, auditors should do more than evaluate a company by minimum standards. Instead, the auditors should compare the company's financial controls to the best industry practices and give those findings to the audit committee.

You know, we're passing through extraordinary times here in America. We fight a war—a real war—to protect our homeland by bringing terrorists to justice. We stand strong against evil abroad—I mean, we are standing strong and determined and united against evil. We're finding strength at home through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and generosity and goodness, neighbors helping neighbors, Americans adhering to the age-old call to love someone just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

America is ushering in a responsibility era, a culture regaining a sense of personal responsibility, where each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. And this new culture must include a renewed sense of corporate responsibility. If you lead a corporation, you have a responsibility to serve your shareholders, to be honest with your employees. You have a responsibility to obey the law and to tell the truth.

Business relationships, like all human relationships, are built on a foundation of integrity and trust. When those values are practiced and expected, our economy and our country are stronger.

We're seeing some challenges and some changes in American business and American enterprise. Yet this annual presentation is a reminder of things that must never change, the passion for excellence, the drive to innovate, the hard work that goes with any successful enterprise, the need to be open, the call for integrity. This year's Baldrige Award winners have shown these qualities and have taken their place in a distinguished line of leaders.

Once again, my congratulations to you all. May God bless your enterprises, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the International Ballroom Center at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Margaret "Midge" Baldrige, widow of former Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige; and Letitia Baldrige, his sister.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Governor, the Mayor, and the Congressional Delegation of New York

March 7, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. As you can see, I'm standing with the mighty—and I emphasize "mighty"—New York delegation. Right after the September the 11th tragedy, I made a pledge to Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton, Governor Pataki, the whole delegation, that our Government

would commit at least $20 billion to help rebuild New York and to take care of the tragedy that befell that magnificent city.

I want to thank the Members who are here who have worked closely with my administration to achieve the common objective of putting $20 billion of Federal money to help the city, surrounding State, the people. And as a matter of fact, as of right now, there's an over $20 billion commitment.

Now, this is the right thing to do. It's the absolute right position for our Government to take. It is essential that New York City come back and come back strong, for the good of the entire Nation.

I will tell you that I am so proud of the citizens of the city in that part of our country. They have shown the world how strong America is in the face of tragedy. They've shown a character that runs deep in the American psyche, that we will not be intimidated, that we won't fail. And it's a proud moment for me to thank the delegation here and to welcome the Governor and the mayor and the Senators and Congresspeople. I look forward to continuing to work with these officials as the mighty city of New York recovers.

And so it's now my honor to bring to the podium the Governor of New York City—the State of New York, and then the mayor and then the Senators. First, Governor George Pataki.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City.

Remarks on the Situation in the Middle East and an Exchange With Reporters

March 7, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. I'm deeply concerned about the tragic loss of life and escalating violence in the Middle East. This is a matter of great interest to the United States and all who want peace in the region and in the world.

There is a roadmap to peace. The Tenet security work plan will bring parties together to reduce the violence, improve the security situation, and return to the path of peace. The Tenet work plan is the first step towards implementing the Mitchell Committee report in full and resuming a political process between the sides.

I'm committed to working with our partners in the region and around the world in the pursuit of this goal. The United States has a vision of a Middle East in which all people, Arabs and Israelis, can live as neighbors in full peace and security.

Recent ideas put forth by the Crown Prince Abdullah—Saudi Arabia have created an opening for discussing this broader peace and for the normalization of relations between Arab States and Israel. The United States is committed to exploring this opening.

Because of our commitment to peace, I'm sending General Tony Zinni back to the region next week to work with Israel and the Palestinians to begin implementing the Tenet work plan so that the parties can renew their efforts for a broader peace. The United States will do all it can to help the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority restore hope to their people and to the region.

I once again call upon Chairman Arafat to make maximum effort to end terrorism against Israel, which undermines the prospects for peace. And as we move forward, I'm counting on all parties in the region, Prime Minister Sharon included, to do everything they can to make these efforts a success.

The violence and tragic loss of Israeli and Palestinian lives must end. Families on both sides of the conflict share this goal, and so does my country. Peace and stability will be an important topic of the Vice President's upcoming trip to the region. I've asked him to join me today.

Mr. Vice President.

[*At this point, Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Powell made brief remarks.*]

The President. I'll answer a few questions. Morris [Dave Morris, Bloomberg News].

Peace Initiatives

Q. Mr. President, you said all along that the two sides need to break the cycle of violence. There's been a lot of false hopes. The violence continues even today. What assurances do you have, if any, that the two sides are now willing to take that step and break the cycle?

The President. Well, we've had a lot of consultations over the last week and week-and-a-half. We've been on the phone a lot. And we believe now's the time for General Zinni to move back into the region. There are no assurances. That is not going to prevent our Government from trying, trying to get the parties to agree to Tenet, trying to reduce the cycle of violence.

Obviously, there's a reason why, and that is because, as a result of consultations, we believe there's a possibility that we can have an impact. And so the combination of General Zinni's trip and the Vice President's trip may have a positive impact. We'll see.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News]. Then Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Action To Reduce Violence

Q. Mr. President, your Secretary of State had some rather stern words for Israel yesterday. Do you believe that Ariel Sharon, engaging in his current policies, has become an obstacle to peace?

The President. Well, I read the Secretary's comments, and it sounded like he had pretty tough words for all parties. He's concerned about the level of violence, like I am. He made it clear that Chairman Arafat needs to do a better job of reducing violence, of using his leadership role to reduce violence. He's also deeply concerned, as am I, about the retaliation, the escalation. It's hard to achieve peace when violence is escalating. And one of the reasons why we're sending Zinni back, and one of the reasons why I hope the Vice President's trip will have a positive effect is because our message is to both sides, reduce violence.

As I mentioned in my remarks, Chairman Arafat must do everything he can to reduce the violence, to stop the spread of violence. We don't believe he's doing enough. And so I thought that the Secretary's comments were wisely balanced.

Escalating Violence/Tenet Plan

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that the continuing and escalating violence is an indication of failure on the part of your administration in the approach you've taken of refraining to send General Zinni, of not yourself talking to Chairman Arafat?

The President. Oh, I think what the escalating violence shows is that there are people who believe in terror as a way of life, people who refuse to allow a peace process to go forward, people who don't want peace in the region. And our Government is committed to saying to those folks, "We will do everything in our power to stop you from preventing a peace process from going forward."

It is—and the first step toward any political solution has got to be the Tenet plan. George Tenet, obviously, works for the United States Government; he's the person that laid out the plan. There is a roadmap for a peaceful solution. It's going to take a lot of effort by a lot of people, and we're willing to put in the effort and believe that General Zinni's trip can make a difference.

Yes, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Administration's Approach to Middle East Peace

Q. Mr. President, why are you personally only talking to one side in this conflict? Why don't you reach out to Chairman Arafat?

The President. Oh, I believe the administration speaks with one voice, and we've got ample amplification to both parties. And our strategy is a well-thought-out strategy. It's one that reminds both parties there's an obligation to seek peace.

I fully understand the Israelis' perspective that they want to defend themselves. That's why I've constantly called on Mr. Arafat to do a better job of reining in those who would wreak havoc on Israel. I also agree with the Secretary of State that it is going to be very hard to achieve a peaceful settlement if there is a tendency to want to constantly find a reason to escalate. And we hope that the Zinni mission will help get to Tenet, and that's where our focus is. Our focus is to get the parties into a process that the world agrees is a good process.

Saudi Peace Initiative

Q. Mr. President, how is the Saudi plan an opening if it's based on things that the Israelis have long rejected?

The President. Well, first of all, they cannot reject the notion of Crown Prince Abdullah that says, "We recognize Israel's right to exist." I think that's an important opening, and I think that's an important statement by Crown Prince Abdullah.

Secondly, it's a position that I took as well at the United Nations, when I said that there ought to be a Palestinian state—the borders of which, by the way, ought to be negotiated between the two parties—but both states recognize each other's right to exist.

And it's an opening. The Crown Prince's decision to make that statement provides an opening. And that's another reason why the Zinni mission is going forward.

Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Israel-U.S. Perspectives

Q. Mr. President, you've consistently called on Mr. Arafat to make, as you said today, a maximum effort. What seems to be new this week is the administration's skepticism about Mr. Sharon. Are you worried, sir, that retaliation seems to be the only policy that he has in mind?

The President. First of all, I fully understand a nation's wanting to defend herself, and I appreciate that. After all, we're in defense of ourself right now. And I can understand the strong desire to enhance security for a people, and I believe that.

I believe what we're saying, though, is that there's got to be a vision for peace. There's got to be more than security, that there's got to be an attempt to achieve a lasting peace. And I hope that my friend, the Prime Minister Sharon, agrees with that assessment. I think he does. I think he recognizes that you can't achieve peace by allowing violence to escalate or causing violence to escalate.

So on the one hand, I fully understand his need to protect the people of Israel, and on the other hand, we look forward to working with him to get into the Tenet plan. He thought the Tenet plan was a good plan. He agreed that the Mitchell plan is the proper course of action. And now we've got to work hard to get into it.

Kelly [Kelly Wallace, Cable News Network].

Corporate Management Reform

Q. Mr. President, can I ask you about the corporate responsibility measures you put forward?

The President. Yes.

Q. Some Democrats are saying that they kind of fall far short of what's needed, and they say your own Treasury Secretary, Paul O'Neill, was pushing for stronger measures, lowering the bar for punishment for corporate leaders.

The President. I think what they ought to do is look at my proposals, take a good, hard look at them. They were very sound, solid proposals. It's the first formal package laid out for the American people to analyze about how to reform corporate governance.

I think it's also very important to make sure that, as we reform corporate governance, we don't encourage frivolous lawsuits. I think it's very difficult to have a vibrant society in the free enterprise sector that is riddled with massive lawsuits all the time. And so I want to have a balanced plan, and I put one out. I'm proud of it. And it would make a lot of sense, and I hope Congress acts on it.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters].

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, is the recession over now? And looking back, do you think we actually ever really had one?

The President. Well, that's a trick question, Patsy, and I appreciate you throwing that out there. [*Laughter*] See, I actually read clips from other parts of the world before I came out here today. So, nice try.

There's no question our economy was hurt by the attacks on 9/11. We'll let the statisticians define what happened or what didn't happen. But our economy went through a massive slowdown. And people's lives were badly affected, and a lot of people were laid off.

And that's why the House did the right thing today, and the Senate now needs to act. The House passed a very good bill. It's a bill that not only takes care of unemployed

workers; it is a bill that has got some economic stimulus as a major part of it. And now the Senate needs to do something. The Senate needs to act and get the bill to my desk, and I look forward to signing it.

But we've had too much—too much nonmovement on this important issue. And it's time to go. It's time to get a bill, and it's time for me to end the press conference. [*Laughter*]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The President also referred to the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director George J. Tenet of the Central Intelligence Agency; and the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Cheney and Secretary of State Powell.

Remarks Following a Roundtable Discussion on Corporate Management Reform and an Exchange With Reporters in St. Petersburg, Florida

March 8, 2002

The President. I want to thank Mike and the good folks here at America II for welcoming me and Jeb and members of the Florida congressional delegation. We've just had a fantastic discussion about why this is a unique company. It's unique because it has got a culture that understands that the worker is an incredibly important part of the vitality of the company and therefore its success.

I'm real proud of Mike. Mike started this company in 1989. He had a dream. He worked hard to achieve it. He's wise enough to understand that he's only as successful as the good folks who work with him. And so it's an honor to be here.

In the room, I'm going to talk about the opportunities for this country to usher in a period of responsibility. Part of a responsible society is for there to be a responsible attitude for corporate management toward employees and shareholders and disclosure, if you're a publicly traded company.

America II is really the best of the best here in America, and I want to thank you for letting me come, Mike. And I want to thank you all very much for sharing.

I'll answer a couple of questions here.

Aftermath of September 11

Q. Mr. President, when you looked down on the ruins of the Pentagon on September 11th, didn't you, in your heart of hearts, expect that by the time you celebrated the sixth anniversary, that you would know where bin Laden was and where Omar was?

The President. No. You know, I knew that we were in for a very different kind of war. And on 9/12 and the days following, when we put the war plan in place, I wasn't sure how long this was going to take. I knew we were in for a long struggle, though. And I never had any artificial deadlines. The good news is, the American people also understand we're in for a long war and that, when it comes to defending freedom, we'll take however long it takes to defend our freedom.

A little later on here, I'll have the privilege of meeting a mom and a dad of a soldier who just died in Afghanistan. And I'm going to remind them that those lives were not lost in vain and that we will fight terror wherever terror exists.

I will tell you, I am pleased at the progress we have made in a quick period of time. Six months is not a very long period of time when you think about the enemy we fight. We've made tremendous progress, thanks in part to the coalition and thanks in part to the brave men and women who wear our uniform. And I am grateful, and so is the Nation grateful.

Those who are preoccupied with one individual do not understand the struggle. We fight terror wherever terror exists. And for those people who say, "Well, one person matters," they elevate that person to a status that he does not deserve. I don't know whether Mr. bin Laden is alive or is dead. I do know we haven't heard from him in a long period of time.

National Economy/Stimulus Package

Q. Sir, employment grew for the first time in 7 months. Is the economy now out of the woods? And the Senate has passed your stimulus plan—your reaction, sir?

The President. Well, first, I am glad the Senate passed the stimulus plan. I think it's going to be really good for workers whose lives have been affected as a result of 9/11. And it's good for entrepreneurs and businessowners because it encourages investment, it encourages employment. And the best stimulus plan is one that focuses on jobs.

And I applaud the House that stayed with this, and I'm glad the Senate finally passed it. I look forward to signing it. It is a good piece of news for workers and entrepreneurs alike.

Look, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters], in terms of the numbers, there's going to be a lot of statistics thrown around about our economy. But let me tell you bluntly how I feel. People's lives were deeply affected on September the 11th. A lot of people got hurt as a result of that attack, and I'm concerned about it. I'm concerned about anybody who's not working and wants to work, and so we'll let the numbers talk. But in terms of policy and the focus of this administration, we're going to do everything we can to increase jobs so people can find work.

One of the reasons we came here is Mike, in the midst of a significant downturn in his business, laid nobody off. There wasn't one layoff at America II. If he was—well, you know, what about the numbers? Well, the numbers here show that he was in a big slowdown. Sales dropped by 40 percent. And yet, he understood his responsibility as a decent citizen, and nobody got laid off.

And I'm real proud of that, Mike, and I want to thank you for it. And it's the kind of thing, by the way, that workers years from now in America II are going to remember, that in the midst of this unbelievable, despicable act of evil on America that affected our economy—I don't care what the number crunchers say; it affected our economy; and it affected a lot of people's lives—this man understood the importance of the workforce and kept people employed here.

Anything else?

Florida Gubernatorial Election

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Who are you with?

Q. St. Petersburg Times.

Anything to say to Janet Reno, who's tooling around on the other side of the bay? [*Laughter*]

The President. Pardon me?

Q. Anything to say about Janet Reno, who's campaigning on the other side of the bay today against your brother?

The President. No, I don't have anything to say. All I've got to know is, the people of Florida have got a really good Governor. They would be wise to keep him. [*Laughter*]

Operation Anaconda

Q. Mr. President, the battle going on outside of Gardez—there's some rumors now from the Afghan—our Afghan allies that there may be some real top leadership, maybe even bin Laden up there. What do you know about that?

The President. I don't know of any specific names, John [John Dickerson, TIME]. I do know we're making great progress. I do know that any time we find Al Qaida bunched up like that, we'll get them. And it's going to be—there's going to be more battles like this one, and American people just need to understand that the best way to secure a homeland is to bring them to justice and to get them. And that's exactly what's happening as we speak.

Our military is tough. Our coalition is strong. And by the way, we're fighting fierce fighters. These people evidently don't—they don't want to give up. And that's okay. If that's their attitude, we'll just have to adjust, and they will have made a mistake, because we're going to be relentless and we're steady and we're supporting our military and they'll have the tools necessary to achieve victory. But as of specific names, I don't know.

Look, here's the thing. We're fighting leaders of the murderers that sent people to commit suicide missions. They're real brave. They say, "You go ahead and commit suicide. I'm going to find a cave. We'll send youngsters to their death. In the meantime, I'm going to try to find a deep cave somewhere."

And so when you fight people like that, you never know.

You know, we've closed up a lot of caves in Afghanistan, and one of these days, you know, we might find some people still in there. But I just don't know, nor am I that focused on it individually.

I realize we're in for a long struggle. And I'm giving a speech on Monday that will outline where we are in this war on terror. And I'm going to remind the American people that we've still got a task at hand in Afghanistan, which is to deny sanctuary to Al Qaida killers. We have achieved a significant victory in Afghanistan by routing the Taliban.

I'm also going to remind people that we're denying sanctuary in other countries as well. I don't want to give you the whole speech; I'd like for you to come and listen to it. [*Laughter*]

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. in the offices of America II Electronics. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Galinski, founder and chief executive officer, America II Electronics; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A reporter referred to Mullah Mohammed Omar, former head of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; and former Attorney General Janet Reno, Democratic candidate in Florida's gubernatorial election.

Remarks to Employees of America II Electronics in St. Petersburg

March 8, 2002

Thank you for that warm welcome. I love to be introduced by my brother. [*Laughter*] I know I'm not supposed to say this, but he's doing a great job as Governor. He's really—[*applause*]. I'm really proud of him, and it seems like a lot in Florida—a lot of people here are proud of him, too. But it's good to see you, Jeb. Thanks, and I hope you're still listening to Mother. [*Laughter*]

For all of you out there who have got children, I want you to know that you can tell them the President said, listen to their mothers—[*laughter*]—because I'm still listening to ours—[*laughter*]—whether I want to or not. [*Laughter*]

I'm so honored that we could come to America II. I was impressed by what I read on the briefing paper before I arrived at the company. I am doubly impressed, having talked to Mike and the people who work here, about the incredible culture that exists in this fine company, a culture that recognizes the worth of the people who work for the company. And Mike, I want to thank you for letting us come.

One of my jobs is to remind people, the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. Here's a guy that started off with 5 employees and no children—[*laughter*]—now has 4 children and 500 employees. [*Laughter*] And so I want to congratulate you all, and thanks for your hospitality.

I also appreciate the members of the Florida congressional delegation for flying down today. We had really a good talk about issues that matter to our national security as well as issues that matter to Florida. Congressmen Bilirakis, Davis, Miller, Putnam, and the chairman, Congressman Bill Young, thank you all for coming.

And I want to thank the mayor. Mr. Mayor, you did a fine job of getting America II prepared for just a little visit from the President. [*Laughter*]

I want to spend a little time talking about the big challenges our Nation faces, starting with an unrelenting drive to defend our freedom. We were attacked by a ruthless enemy who must not have understood America. They must have thought we were soft and so incredibly materialistic and self-absorbed that we would not find the will to fight and sacrifice for that which we hold dear. And they have made a huge miscalculation.

In the beginning, I told the American people we were in for a long, difficult struggle, that I wasn't sure how long this was going to take. But I really wasn't concerned about the calendar. I'm concerned about our future. And I'm concerned about this Nation leading the world to rout out terror wherever it exists, so our children and grandchildren can live in freedom. That's our concern.

I told the world that you're either with us, or you're against us. A lot of people are now with us. [*Laughter*] And it's important that

we remain strong and determined and focused, to remind people that we're fighting for freedom, the right to worship freely, the right to express your opinion in the political process, the right for there to be a free press—freedoms we hold dear. And these freedoms are not just American freedoms; they're universal freedoms. And we must stand strong.

I also said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the murderers who killed thousands in America. And the Taliban found out what I meant. The Taliban found out about what we meant by justice. The Taliban found out that we've got a fabulous military. And they found out that our military and our coalition were not conquerors; we're liberators. We liberated the people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind, people who refused to educate young girls, people who mistreated women. No, this great country of ours not only defends our freedom; we liberate people so they can enjoy their own freedoms. I'm proud of the United States military.

Next Monday will mark the sixth month, the date of 6 months from September the 11th. That's not a very long time. It seems like a long time for a lot of people, I know, but when we look back at history, 6 months is a pretty short period of time in the war against terror. And we've accomplished a lot, but there are still dangerous missions left ahead. You see, the Al Qaida killers trained thousands of people who hate America, who hate what we stand for, who resent our freedoms, who want to harm us still, who want to make sure that our alliance is weak. They're looking for soft spots to exploit, and we're not going to let them.

We found a bunch of Al Qaida killers recently, bunched up in Afghanistan. And our military went after them, and we're making good progress. It is a sign of what's going to happen for a while. And my fellow Americans must understand that, that we'll be relentless and determined to do what is right.

And we will take loss of life, and I'm sad for loss of life. And today we've got the mom and dad of a brave soldier who lost his life, and a brother. God bless you. Thank you all for coming. I know your heart aches, and we ache for you. But your son and your brother died for a noble and just cause. May God bless you. May God bless you.

I hate it, to know that young soldiers are at risk. But I want to assure you and all those loved ones whose sons and daughters are at risk that not only is the cause just and important and noble, but our United States Government will provide the United States military with whatever it needs to win this war against terror.

And I want to thank Chairman Young, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for joining and supporting the budget I submitted to the United States Congress, which sets this priority: The national defense of our country is the number one priority in this budget. We will give our soldiers the best material, the best supplies, the best training, another pay raise. The price of freedom is high, no doubt about it, but the price of freedom is never too high, as far as I'm concerned. My job is to protect the American people. It's the job of the American military, and I take that job really seriously.

We've got a homeland defense strategy that's making the borders more secure, preparing for bioterrorism attack, a homeland security strategy that will work with first-time responders, should we need them. We're on it, and I want you to know that our law enforcement officials are running down every possible lead, every hint. I mean, if we get a whiff of somebody fixing to do something to America, we're on them. We are doing everything we can. The Nation is on alert, as it should be, because there is still an enemy there.

But I want to remind my fellow citizens, the best way to secure the homeland is to find the killers wherever they hide, wherever they try to flee, wherever they think they can find safe sanctuary. We're after them. We will not allow this Nation to be threatened. We will protect the homeland. We will defend freedom no matter what the cost. I'm proud of my fellow citizens. We're united. We are determined, and we are patient—much to the chagrin of the enemy.

And I'm proud of my fellow citizens when it comes to enduring some hardship at home as well. I mean, not only were we attacked,

but the attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. Now, you'll hear a lot of number-crunching going on and people saying, "Well, you know, this was the number; that was the number." Look, I don't care about the numbers. I know the facts, and people's lives were affected. People lost jobs. People were worried about their future. People were deeply concerned about what the terrorist attacks did to our economy.

And so long as somebody can't find work who wants to work, I'm worried about it. And therefore, I'm going to stay focused on how best to create more jobs in America; what can you do to do to help people find work? It's one thing to help people that are unemployed, and that's fine. Unemployment checks are good and important, but that's not what folks want in America. They want a permanent paycheck, and that ought to be the policy of this Government.

And today the United States Senate passed a stimulus package, one that the House passed yesterday. That is a good piece of news for American workers and American entrepreneurs. I'm going to sign it as soon as it gets to my desk.

The best kind of public policy is one where we don't play party politics but focus on what's right for the country. It's kind of hard to get them thinking that way up there, but nevertheless, we're making pretty good progress. And I think—I think America is beginning to see that by changing the tone and by focusing on people and by heralding what we can do, as opposed to what we can't do, we're making progress in Washington, DC.

This is a good piece of work by the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House deserves a lot of credit. The Members of the House deserve a lot of credit for staying with this initiative. And I'm pleased the Senate has reacted and passed the bill, and now I'm going to sign it. It is good for America.

But I also want to remind you that we took some action ahead of this. This is going to help as we go down in the out years. But when I traveled your State, I talked about the need for tax relief. I said that it's really important for our Government to understand the dynamics of economic growth, and when you let workers keep their own money, it gives them something to spend. And when they spend it, it encourages somebody to produce a product. And when somebody is encouraged to produce a product, that means jobs.

We cut taxes at exactly the right time, and I can't tell you, I'm going to mightily resist anybody who tries to undo the tax relief for the American people. Sometimes in Washington people get confused about whose money we're dealing with. They think it's the Government's money. No, it's the people's money. And the more you have of it in your pocket, the better off you will be and, therefore, our economy will be as well.

I'm pleased to hear Mike's firsthand report about sales beginning to improve. I think that is good news. I'm pleased to see, you know, the unemployment figures today got better, and that's good news. But as far as I'm concerned, the economy is not strong enough. As far as I'm concerned, when people are looking for work and can't find it, I'm going to keep focused on jobs. I'm not going to let the numbers lull me to sleep.

I want you all to know that out of this evil is going to come some good. It may be hard to realize it right now; it's got to be. But out of evil will come good in America. I believe when we stay strong—you know, so long as I'm the President, we're going to be after them, without blinking. If we remain steadfast and steady and determined and strong, the world will be a more peaceful place. Out of the evil will come some good.

And at home, out of evil is coming some good. People are beginning to say—take a new look at their life, take an assessment of what's important in life. There is a period of responsibility beginning to take hold here, and that begins—that's twofold: One, personal responsibility; and one, corporate responsibility.

I'm here because this is a company led by a man who understands corporate responsibility. They lose 40 percent of their sales and didn't lay off one citizen. Mike built a culture of respect. I felt it when I was talking to the employees. People respect each other. They love the idea that he's aligned authority and responsibility. He is a good corporate citizen, because he understands the responsibility that comes with leadership.

All people involved in our capitalistic system must assume responsibility for leadership. In the publicly held corporations, the world of publicly held corporations, there are laws and regulations which hold people accountable. They need to be clear, and they need to be tough when people misuse the public trust. We've got thousands of citizens who own shares of publicly held companies, many in pension plans, mutual funds, a lot of them direct ownership. And this country must hold corporate CEOs—CEOs of publicly held companies to the highest of high standards.

I talked yesterday—I want to review with you right quick what I believe we ought to do. First of all, any time a chief executive officer of a publicly held company signs a financial statement, he is personally vouching—he's personally saying the numbers are correct and accurate. And if one were to receive a bonus, any corporate officer receive a bonus and the numbers are misleading as a result of misconduct, the bonus needs to go back to the treasury on behalf of the shareholders. These guys should not be allowed to keep their bonuses. And if they get caught doing it, they ought never to be an officer of a publicly held corporation or a board member of a publicly held corporation again. They ought to be—any time an officer of a publicly held company sells stock, we ought to know within 2 days. We ought to know, "we" being shareholders and employees. There needs to be openness and transparency for the good of the capitalist system.

And the auditors, those who analyze the numbers for publicly held companies, ought to be held to high standards as well. And they ought to make sure that we can have confidence in their numbers by making sure there are no conflicts of interest involved.

In order to usher in a period of responsibility in America, a culture of responsibility, corporate America must be responsible, must make sure that there are no shenanigans or sleight of hands, must make sure there is an openness and disclosure about true liabilities and true assets. And if they don't, they must be held to account.

And I believe Americans, as a result of taking an assessment of what's important in life, are ushering in a period of personal responsibility as well. I think—I believe we're feeling a cultural shift, one from the days when it said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it, to a period when each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life, that we're responsible for loving our children with all our heart and all our soul, and we are responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourself.

Today we've got one such person with us. You know, I like to define America's compassionate citizens as soldiers in the armies of compassion. And we've got one such soldier here that I can recognize—I'm sure there are many soldiers in the armies of compassion here with us—and her name is Roxanne Hunt. She works for the City of Pinellas Park Police. Roxanne, do you mind standing up real quick? [*Applause*] Thank you, Roxanne.

Without being asked or told, Roxanne has adopted a family for Christmas. Roxanne has fed the homeless. Roxanne has been involved in environmental cleanup activities here. Roxanne sponsored a bike rodeo, saved a little guy's life who was choking on a hot dog—at least it wasn't a pretzel. [*Laughter*] Roxanne is a soldier in the armies of compassion, armies which exist in every community across America.

People say to me, "What can I do to help? What can I do to fight in the war against terror?" And my answer is, do some good. You see, for every act of kindness, people are doing something to fight evil. If you're good to a neighbor in need, you stand firm in the face of evil. It's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion and decency which define the true face of America.

They hit us. They thought we had quit. We're not going to quit. We're strong, and we're steady. They hit us, and out of this evil can come incredible good, as Americans show the world their compassion by loving a neighbor, by caring for somebody in need, by focusing on the values that matter, faith and family.

I'm so proud to be the President of a country of such decent and caring and strong and—people willing to sacrifice for a greater good. May God bless you all. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in the warehouse at America II Electronics. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Michael Galinski, founder and chief executive officer, America II Electronics; and Mayor Rick Baker of St. Petersburg.

Remarks at a Republican Party of Florida Reception in St. Petersburg

March 8, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Well, thank you all for coming out to say hello to me and my little brother. [*Laughter*] I sure hope you work hard to get him back in. He has done a fabulous job. You know, when you've got somebody who brings honor and integrity and works hard and loves the people and does in office what he said he's going to do, you need to send him back in. So thank you for getting ready to work. Thank you for getting ready to work. Grassroots politics means a lot.

Audience member. We love you both. [*Laughter*]

The President. Thank you. Sounds like you've been talking to our mother. [*Laughter*] I think she still loves us. I know she's telling us what to do all the time. [*Laughter*] Jeb listens about half the time. I listen all the time, of course. [*Laughter*]

It's great to be in Pinellas County. You know, I was flying down today with Chairman Young. He said, "It's about time you came to Pinellas." I said, "Well, it's about time you invited me, Mr. Chairman." [*Laughter*] But I'm proud of Bill Young. I hope you're proud of Bill Young. He's doing a fabulous job. He's a good man. He's a good man in the right position.

And Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming, too. The mayor of St. Petersburg is here. I'm honored you're here, Mr. Mayor. I don't know if any of the other Congressmen that came down with us are here.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. There he is. Miller, Bilirakis—of course he's here. What am I thinking? What am I thinking? Where's Red? There he is. Adam Putnam, he's here. Miller, Dan Miller is here.

Listen, there are some fine Members of the United States Congress from Florida; you need to get them back in, too. Miller is not running again, I'm sorry to say, but nevertheless, we've got to make sure his seat stays Republican, and these other three need to come back, along with the chairman.

Listen, we're making a big difference up there. And one of the reasons why is, we've got a Republican Speaker, and we want to make sure we have a Republican Speaker after the off-year elections.

I told Jeb, I'll do anything he wants me to do to get him elected. If he wants me down here, I'm coming back. It's important for the State of Florida. Jeb said, "Well, it'll help me." Nuh-uh, it's going to help the people of Florida. You see, you've got a man here who cares deeply about making sure the school system works and that no child in Florida is left behind. It is essential that you have a Governor who knows how to lead on education. It is by far the most important issue that a Governor can deal with, is educating the children. And Jeb, as a result of his program and as a result of the help you're giving his program, is making a huge difference in the very future of the State of Florida.

Florida has got her challenges, and it's good to have a good, steady man at the helm, a person, by the way, who makes his mind up not based upon polls or what some focus group might say, but a person who makes up his mind based upon principles. Jeb is a principled man. And he's not going to blink in the face of tough times, and neither am I.

And we've got some tough times ahead of us in America. We've got some tough times. We're fighting for freedom. We're defending the very values that we hold dear.

We got attacked by some murderers, people—and I like to remind people, they must have not known who they were attacking. They thought we were soft. They thought we were self-absorbed. They thought we were so materialistic that we would maybe try to sue them—[*laughter*]—that we wouldn't deal with them. But they made a big mistake.

I told the world that either you're with us, or you're against us, and there's no in-between. And most of the world is with us. And

I'm proud to say our coalition is strong, because people understand the value of freedom, the freedom to worship the way you like to worship, the freedom to vote, the freedom to express your opinion without fear of reprisal, the freedom to risk capital and realize your entrepreneurial dream. Well, listen, we hold freedom dear, and we will defend it at all costs.

I also said that if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed one, if you think they can hide in your land, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. They are no longer in power, thank goodness. And the people who appreciate that fact the most are women and children in Afghanistan.

We seek justice, not revenge, and we're liberators, not conquerors. Our mighty military, along with other coalition forces, routed out the Taliban and liberated people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the will of the American people and the strength of the United States military.

I have said from the beginning of this war that this is going to be a long, difficult struggle. And it is. Today Jeb and I had the honor of meeting a mom and dad whose son was recently killed in the battle that rages in Afghanistan. It broke my heart to see her sadness. I was touched by her grief. But I assured her, like I assure you, that this cause is noble; this cause is just. And our country will not relent; we will not tire; we will not falter until we have routed out terror from its very roots and held people accountable for those who would want to hurt America.

History has called us into action. History has called this great land to lead, and we will lead. And the good news is, the world sees how strong the American people are and how united we are and how convinced we are of the rightness of our cause.

I have submitted a budget that is the largest defense spending increase in 20 years. I did so because of my conviction, a conviction supported by Chairman Young, that our military deserves the best equipment, the best training, a pay increase. If we send the men and women in uniform into harm's way, our Government must stand strongly with them in the fight for freedom. Thank goodness the man from Pinellas County is in charge of the appropriations process, because he knows what I know. The price of freedom is high, but the price of freedom is never too high, as far as we're concerned.

And by the way, the war against terror is bigger than any single individual. Oh, I know there are some always talking about this bin Laden fellow. But remember, he's the kind of fellow who—he asks youngsters to go commit suicide, and he tries to bury inside a cave. We haven't heard from him in a long time. He's been kind of quiet for months. I don't know if he's alive; I don't know if he's dead. But I know this: If he is alive, there is no cave deep enough for the United States. We're going to find him.

It doesn't matter whether he was brought to justice a month ago or years from now. What matters is the resolve of the American people to rout out terror. And what matters is, as well, is we're not going to let nations develop the worst kinds of weapons and hook up with terrorist organizations so that future generations of Americans will be held hostage to people who resent our country and resent our way of freedom. The world's most dangerous weapons will not—the world's most dangerous nations will not be allowed to develop, to keep the world's most dangerous weapons.

We're doing everything we can to secure the homeland. My most important job is to protect the American people. Every morning I walk into the glorious Oval Office. I'm an early morning guy, so I get out there about—get over there about 6:50, 7 o'clock in the morning. In comes Spot, the dog, with me. [*Laughter*] Spot was born at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, so she's kind of used to the surroundings. [*Laughter*] When I told them that, somebody said, "What about Barney, the Scottish terrier?" I said, "Well, we just bought a new rug." [*Laughter*] He's a little young for the Oval Office.

And I read about the threats that face our country. The enemy is still out there. And I want you to know we're doing everything in our power. We're chasing down every lead. We're working with law enforcement officials. We're focused on hunting them down.

Anybody who thinks they can come to our country to hunt them—to hurt us, we're going to be after them. And we're on alert. And I'm proud of the American law enforcement officials, and I'm proud of our citizens.

But I want to remind my fellow citizens, the best way to secure the homeland is to rout out terror wherever it exists and get them and bring them to justice. And so long as I'm the President, that's exactly what we're going to do.

I want to thank you all, too, for standing strong on taxes. Now, as you know, our economy got roughed up as a result of 9/11, that we got hit pretty hard. You're going to hear the statisticians, the number crunchers, the bean counters, as we call them in Texas, say, well, this might have been a recession; this might not have been a recession—this, that, and the other. Look, so long as somebody lost a job, I'm worried about it. That's enough to get my attention.

And we need to make sure we focus on how to create jobs in our economy, and one way to do that is to let people keep their own money. One way to make sure that there's economic vitality is to let people keep their own money so that increases demand, which increases supply, which then helps people keep jobs. We cut the taxes last year, last June. We signed the tax bill. It was the absolute right thing to do at the right time in order to make sure our economy did not suffer economically.

And as Jeb mentioned, sometimes people in the political process read the wrong economics textbook. When times are slow, they want to raise your taxes. Or when times are slow, they don't want tax relief to continue on. Well, when they do that, they get crossways with the Bush boys. [*Laughter*] We understand—we understand that the money is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And finally, let me share with you my optimism about our country. This is such a fabulous nation. And people say, you know, they say, "How do you fight terror?" And I say—you remind them that one way to stand in the face of evil is to do some good, and that's what's happening all across the country.

We're a compassionate nation. We're a kind nation. We're a nation of faith, a nation of family. We're a nation where somebody walks across the street and says to a neighbor who's shut in, "What can I do to make your day brighter? How can I help you?" That's the America I know. As a result of the millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place on a regular day, America stands strong in the face of evil. Our collective front is formed by the compassion that Americans do to neighbors in need.

And so my call to my fellow Americans is, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Help somebody who needs help. Love somebody. Donate some money to a worthy cause. Go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and start a faith-based program that will help somebody defeat addiction. Remember, there are still people that hurt in our society, and we can help. And we can help.

There is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness in America. And as a result of this evil, we're assessing ourselves. We're taking a good look at values that matter. America is on the verge of ushering in a new culture, one that says, "I'm responsible for the decisions I make in life," a culture that recognizes there's something—a culture that recognizes serving something greater than yourself is a noble culture.

Flight 93 helped define what I'm talking about. Young men and a lady on an airplane knew they were in danger. They were on their cell phones. They told their wives they loved them. They said a prayer, and they sacrificed for something greater than themselves. That's the America the world is beginning to see. That's the America I have the honor of leading. It is such a privilege to be your President. It is such a privilege to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:34 p.m. in the King Charles Ballroom at the Don CeSar Beach Resort and Spa. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Mayor Rick Baker of St. Petersburg; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Statement on Senator Fred Thompson's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

March 8, 2002

Senator Fred Thompson has served the people of Tennessee with honor, distinction, and class. He has worked tirelessly for Tennessee's interests, as well as for the national interest. While I will miss Fred's service in the Senate, I wish him all the best and will always call him a friend.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 3

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC. In the evening, they attended a gala at Ford's Theatre.

March 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Eden Prairie, MN, and later to Minneapolis, MN. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on December 24–29, 2001.

March 5

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Republican congressional leaders from the House and the Senate to discuss counterterrorism efforts and domestic issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts: Catherine Todd Bailey; Lawrence E. Bathgate II; Ronald Aram Berberian; Catherine Caldwell Cabaniss; Kevin Arlen Crass; Daniel Frank Cronin Crowley; James Frederick Dicke II; David Judson Fisher; Timothy Fuller; James Arthur Haslam II; Brenda LaGrange Johnson; James Casey Kenny; Nancy Goins Kinder; Patrick Alexander Lopez Negrete; Karin F. Luter; Loretta Webb Lynn; P.E. MacAllister; Augustus Chole Miller; Carlos Dario Olamendi; Julie Jones Oles; Juan Alfonso Sabater; Dwight Schar; David Lee Sokol; Fred Douglas Thompson; Vance Michael Thompson; David Richard Tyson; Llewellyn Orcutt Ward III; Cortright Wetherill, Jr.; Yvonne Renee Davis; Judith Ann Eisenberg; Joseph James O'Donnell; Margaret Alexander Parker; John Whitney Payson; Clyde Armand Rodbell; Connie Russell Schmett; and Barbara U. Stephenson.

March 6

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met in the Oval Office with members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg in the Oval Office.

March 7

In the morning, the President met with the Homeland Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with labor organization leaders to discuss proposed energy legislation and other issues. He also met separately with members of Congress to discuss proposed energy legislation.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and his family to their ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 5–7.

March 8

In the morning, the President traveled to St. Petersburg, FL, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Fred S. Zeidman as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, and, upon appointment, designate him as Chair.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada at the White House on March 14 to review key bilateral issues and planning for the June 2002 G–8 meeting in Kananaskis, Canada.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 4

Albert Casey,
of Texas, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2009, vice Tirso del Junco, term expired.

James B. Comey,
of New York, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice Mary Jo White, term expired.

Robert Patrick John Finn,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Afghanistan.

Thomas A. Marino,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years, vice David M. Barasch, term expired.

Patrick E. McDonald,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Idaho for the term of 4 years, vice James Howard Benham, term expired.

John Edward Quinn,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years, vice Dennis H. Blome, term expired.

Stephen Geoffrey Rademaker,
of Delaware, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control), vice Avis Thayer Bohlen.

Robert R. Rigsby,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, vice Reggie Barnett Walton, elevated.

Don Slazinik,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice Terrence Edward Delaney, term expired.

Michael E. Toner,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007, vice Darryl R. Wold, term expired.

Kim Richard Widup,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice James L. Whigham.

Submitted March 6

Peter A. Lawrence,
of New York, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of New York for the term of 4 years, vice John Patrick McCaffrey, term expired.

Jeffrey D. Wallin,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Ron Chew.

Withdrawn March 6

Frederick R. Heebe,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term

of 4 years, vice Eddie J. Jordan, Jr., resigned, which was sent to the Senate on November 1, 2001.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Transcript of an interview of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice by Mohamed El Satouhi of Egypt TV

Fact sheet: A Quality Teacher in Every Classroom

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps—One Month Anniversary

Announcement of nomination for Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released March 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick on the steel decision

Fact sheet on the Presidential action on steel

Announcement on the appointment of Candida Wolff as Assistant to the Vice President for Legislative Affairs

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Visit the U.S.-Mexican Border in El Paso, Texas, To View Demonstrations of Border Security Technologies

Released March 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released March 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Address Boston's First-Responders at Historic Faneuil Hall

Released March 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Chretien of Canada

Joint Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, John Manley, and the Director of the White House Office of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, on Progress Made in the Smart Border Action Plan

Transcript of remarks by Vice President Dick Cheney on his upcoming visit to the Middle East

Announcement: President Bush To Sign Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

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